

**Contextualizing Peace and Development:  
The Case of Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan**



By

Bushra Ahmad

Registration Number: 0000273717

Supervised by

Dr. Bakare Najimdeen

CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY (CIPS)

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (NUST), ISLAMABAD

2018-2020

**Contextualizing Peace and Development:  
The Case of Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan**

By

Bushra Ahmad

Registration Number: 0000273717

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the  
degree of MS Peace and Conflict Studies

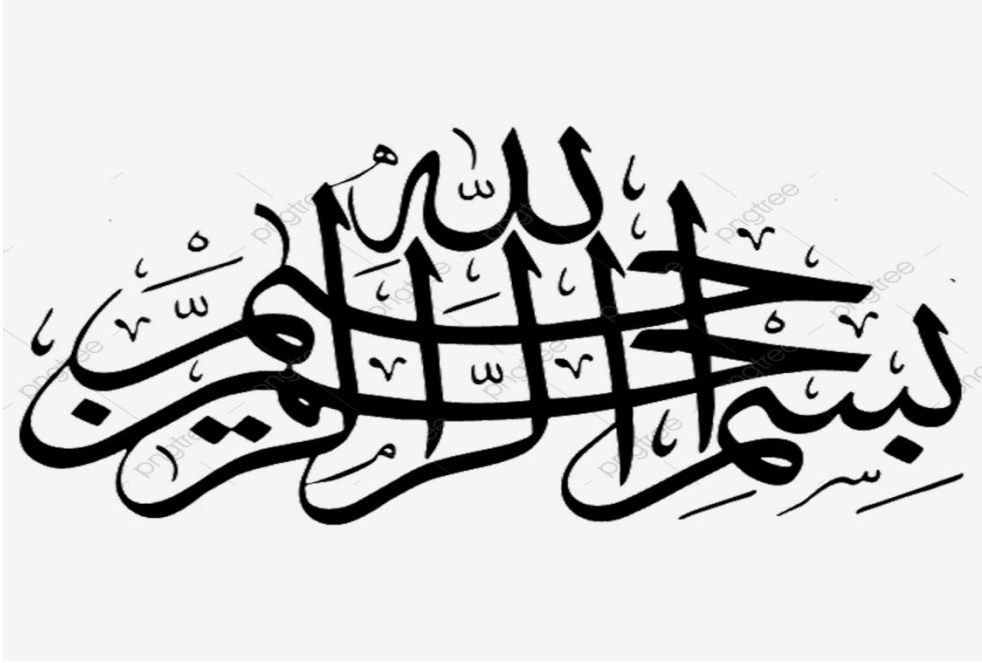
Supervisor

Dr. Bakare Najimdeen

CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY (CIPS)

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (NUST), ISLAMABAD

2018-2020



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST BENEFICIENT,  
THE MOST MERCIFUL

*Read! And Thy Lord Is Most Honorable and Most Benevolent, Who taught (to write) By Pen,  
He Taught Man That Which He Knew Not*

(Surah Al-Alaq 30:3-5)

Al Quran

## THESIS ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATE

Certified that the contents and form of MS thesis entitled “**Contextualizing Peace and Development, The Case of Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan**” written by Ms. Bushra Ahmad (Registration No.0000273717), of Center of International Peace and Stability has been vetted by the undersigned, found complete in all respects as per NUST status/regulations, is free of plagiarism, errors, and mistakes and is accepted as partial fulfilment for award of MS Degree. It is further certified that necessary amendments as pointed out by GEC members of the scholar have been incorporated in the said thesis, have been found satisfactory for the requirement of the degree.

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr .Bakare Najimdeen

CIPS, NUST

Head of Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr.Bakare Najimdeen

CIPS, NUST

Principle/Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr.Tughral Yamin

CIPS, NUST

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATE OF PLAGIARISM (TURNITIN REPORT)

This thesis has been checked for plagiarism. Turnitin report endorsed by supervisor is attached.

Student's Signature

Bushra Ahmad

Registration number

0000273717

Supervisor Signature

Dr, Bakare Najimdeen

## DECLARATION

I certify that this research work titled “Contextualization Peace and Development: The Case of Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan” is my own work .The work has not been presented elsewhere for assessment .The material that has been used from other sources has been properly acknowledged/referred.

---

Studesnt’s Signature

**Bushra Ahmad**

Registration No: 0000273717

## **Acknowledgements**

*In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful*

Thanks to the Gracious Allah for all the countless gifts and opportunities He has offered me, for without His grace and blessing this would not have been possible. I am really grateful to my supervisor Dr. Bakare Najimdeen, for his supervision, patience and encouragement throughout the journey. His dedication and hard work has pushed me to do my best. The doors of his office were always open whenever I faced any troublesome situation during my research work. He invoked the interest of research in me and made sure that I was moving in right direction.

Special thanks go to my parents for their constant struggles, prayers and support in every phase of life. Though words are not enough to express our feelings and respect for them, but still from the core of our heart I want to thank them for whatever I am today. I would like to thank my sisters for being the constant support and being the best partner in crime, my nephew Abdullah and my niece Kashaf for being innocence I need in my life.

I would like to appreciate my friend Farah for being literally one message away and listening to my rants. Special thanks to Minahil for the constant guidance. Lastly, I would like to thank Hadia, Jamal, Tahreem, Talha for being the constant emotional support.

Lastly, thanks to Team fight fortress for keeping me sane in difficult phases of life.

## DEDICATION

I Dedicate This Thesis to “*All the Odd One’s Out*”



**Abstract:**

Pakistan has been facing multiple socio-economic, political, and environmental issues that have been the source of chaos in the country. To address the issues of developing states, United Nations designed a sustainable development framework, otherwise known as Sustainable development goals (SDGs). Research suggests that peace is directly related to these goals. To make a sense of it, this study is situated in the context of Pakistan. The researcher's objective is to explore the relationship between peace and sustainable development goals in the context of Pakistan. The goals selected for this research are SDG1, SDG2, SDG10, SDG11, and SDG16. These goals aim to eradicate poverty and hunger, reduce inequalities, build sustainable cities and communities and introduce peace, justice, and strong institutions respectively. Furthermore, the role of governance, institutions, and social policy were also explored. In-depth interviews were conducted with eight participants from government officials and the data was analyzed through descriptive analysis. The findings of the study suggest that peace is a precondition for achieving sustainable development goals in context of Pakistan. Moreover, results suggest that role of government, institutions, and civil society is of utmost importance for maintaining peace in the country. Lastly, transformation in the social policy of Pakistan is the need of the hour to reduce conflict.

## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	6
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:.....	11
LIST OF FIGURES .....	12
Abstract:.....	8
Introduction.....	13
1.1 Background of the Study .....	13
1.2 Research Questions.....	14
1.3 Research Objectives.....	14
1.4 Research Significance.....	15
1.5 Organization of the Study .....	15
Chapter 2: Literature Review.....	17
Chapter 3: Research Methodology.....	32
3.1 Introduction.....	32
3.2 Research design: Qualitative Research.....	32
3.3 Sampling .....	33
3.4 Data collection methods and tools .....	34
3.5 Interview Guide .....	34
3.6 Research Process.....	36
3.7 Ethical consideration.....	37
3.8 Participants of the Study .....	37
3.9 Limitations of the Research .....	39
3.10 Conclusion .....	40
Chapter 4: Findings and Analyses .....	36
4.1 Introduction.....	41
4.2 Accomplishment of Peace through SDGs in Pakistan.....	41
4.2.1 Peace as a Precondition and an Overarching Goal .....	41

4.2.3 Geo-Political Dimension as the Cause of Conflict .....	42
4.2.4 Population Explosion (Real Threat) and Resource Distribution.....	43
4.2.5 Peace as an Isolated Entity.....	43
4.2.6 Correlation of SDGs with Security Situation of Pakistan.....	44
4.2.7 COVID19 and SDGs.....	45
4.2.8 Synchronization of academics and policymakers .....	46
4.3 Correlation of Accomplishment of SDGs and Governance/Institutes .....	46
4.3.1 State of governance and state of peace .....	47
4.3.2 Civil Society’s Role .....	48
4.3.4 Public-private partnership.....	49
4.4.1 Pakistan’s Social Policy .....	51
4.4.2 Transformation in Social Policy .....	53
4.4.3 Structural flaws .....	54
Chapter 5: Discussion .....	54
Conclusion .....	63

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:**

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
MoPD and SI	Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
PPP	Public Private Partnership
MOPD and R	Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms
HDI	Human Development Index

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Research Methodology
Figure 2	List of participants and their designation

# **Chapter 1: Introduction**

## **1.1 Background of the Study**

Developing states face multiple challenges in their pursuit of stability and development. Currently, Pakistan is facing several developmental and social issues that are directly or indirectly linked to the absence of peace in the country. Poverty, food insecurity, poor literacy rate, poor health facilities, gender inequality, injustice, poor economic growth, environmental degradation, and other factors depict a dismal situation within the State. Various international organizations have formed strategies to improve the social and developmental situation within developing countries. The United Nations identified socioeconomic issues within the developing and developed countries and provided a framework of actions that could help minimize these issues. The framework has classified these socioeconomic issues under the Sustainable Development Goals. The universal 2030 agenda provides a functional framework for 193 United Nations member states. It is a universal framework, including policies and goals for members' economic, social, and environmental development. Despite a detailed framework and plan, there have been various hurdles in achieving the SDGs. In the case of Pakistan, there is a wide literature gap on relationships between these goals. This research explores the relationship of peace and the attainment of sustainable development goals in Pakistan. The goals selected for this research are SDG1, SDG2, SDG10, SDG11, and SDG16. These goals aim to eradicate poverty and hunger, reduce inequalities, build sustainable cities and communities, and introduce peace, justice, and strong institutions respectively. This study is an effort to provide possible unconventional ways to achieve peace through the accomplishment of sustainable development goals in Pakistan.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the literature, following research questions were designed. The following research questions guide this study:

1. How would the accomplishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs) bring peace in Pakistan?
2. How good governance is essential for the accomplishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs)?
3. Would there be a correlation between the strengthening of institutions, peace in Pakistan, and the accomplishment of SDGs?
4. What structural and policy transformation is needed in Pakistan to achieve SDGs (particularly no poverty, zero hunger, sustainable communities, and cities, reduce inequalities, peace, justice, and strong institutions) by 2030?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Following the research questions, the subsequent research objectives were designed for the study:

1. To explore the relationship between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and peace in Pakistan.
2. To analyze the correlation of the strengthening of institutions and good governance and accomplishment of peace in Pakistan.
3. To investigate the relationship between a shift towards a transformative social policy to achieve SDGs and peace in Pakistan.

## **1.4 Research Significance**

1. The research provides unconventional ways that is academic perspective to cope with social issues in Pakistan.
2. This research will help the government to bring transformative reforms in policies.
3. There has been minimum literature on the correlation between SDGs and peace in Pakistan, therefore, this research fill the gap in existing literature that is to analyze the relationship between SDGs and peace.

## **1.5 Organization of the Study**

This thesis consists of five chapters. The organization of chapters is as follows. The current chapter has introduced the study and outlined its focus. It also consists of research questions and objectives that guides the study. Lastly, it highlights the significance of the research.

Chapter 2 is the review of the literature on development viewed through the lenses of scholars and institutions. Furthermore, this chapter discusses the debates on sustainable development and various aspects of sustainable development goals in developing and developed states.

Chapter 3 is the research methodology, it comprises the detailed methodology used to conduct this research. It discusses research design, sampling technique, sample size, target population, data collection tools, and research process in detail. Additionally, it justifies the methodology used in this study. Furthermore, it highlights the ethical considerations and limitations of the research.

Chapter 4 is findings and analysis, it consists of a data analysis technique that is descriptive analysis. This chapter consist of three sections based on gathered data that are further divided into subsections. The first section aims to provide an insight into the relationship between peace and the above mentioned SDGs in Pakistan. The second section provides insight into



governance and institutions' role in the accomplishment of peace via sustainable development goals. The last section enlightens the readers with the current social policy of Pakistan and the transformation that it needs to achieve sustainable development goals.

Chapter 5 is discussion and conclusion, it consists of discussions on the findings of the gathered data. It summaries the findings of the study, its interpretation and views it in the context of the literature review. Moreover, it discusses research findings keeping in view the research question and research objectives. Furthermore, it highlight the alternate results in the study. Additionally, each section concerning each goal, its finding, interpretation in view of existing literature is discussed. Lastly, brief conclusion of the study is discussed.

Finally, the bibliography is placed at the end of the thesis.

## Chapter 2: Literature Review

Development and peace are closely related and directly proportional to each other. In the words of former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan:

“Wars kill development as well as people. The poor therefore need security as much as they need clean water, schooling or affordable health, working with poor people and their government and international partners, can help build a more secure future for us all.”<sup>1</sup>

Post World War II, development was viewed as the need to provide economic assistance to the developing and underdeveloped states. For instance, a marshal plan was established to provide aid for the reconstruction of war-torn states.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, Breton wood institutions helped to establish a sustainable economic system. However, Amartya Sen argues that in pursuit of economic development, morals and ethics have been ignored repeatedly. He is of the view that development is the matter of human values, morals, and prosperity<sup>3</sup>. With passing time, other aspects of development also emerged which is now seen as social, political, cultural, psychological, and environmental change. Many researchers established their definition of development, for instance, Amartya sen argues that development is a freedom of action in which an individual ability to reach its maximum potential in social, economic, political aspects is measured. Contrastingly, some scholars focus on the hurdles that do not allow the economic and social growth of people like civil wars, natural resources misuse, and poverty traps itself.<sup>4</sup> Research suggests that the identification and elimination of these hurdles would result in the development. Some scholars like Jeffery believes that the improvement in living

---

<sup>1</sup> Kofi Annan, *Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility*, (United Nations, 2004).

<sup>2</sup> Roy Jenkins, Walt Rostow, Helmut Schmidt, James Chace, Charles Kindle Berger, “The Marshall Plan and Its Legacy: 50 Years Later,” *Foreign Affairs* (1997): 157–220.

<sup>3</sup> Amartya Sen, *On Ethics and Economics* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1987), 2–3.

<sup>4</sup> Stefano Costalli, Luigi Moretti, Costantino Pischedda 2014, “The Economic Costs of Civil War: Synthetic Counterfactual Evidence and the Effects of Ethnic Fractionalization”, (Paper No. 184, Households in Conflict Network. Brighton: IDS)

standards of the masses is called development.<sup>5</sup> Another debate about development is that it is the variant of colonialism.

Dossa (2007) argues that development is the new form of colonialism in the post-colonial era.<sup>6</sup> Development is criticized as a new way of excess to raw materials from the global south also called developing and underdeveloped states. Shiva (2000) argues that it is neocolonialism rather than post-colonialism.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, research suggests that it is a replay of the colonial rule with new fancy words. However, there has been noteworthy economic progress over the decades but the poor are still poor and the underdeveloped are still severely underdeveloped. Some scholars like Illich argues that due to development, there has been a deletion of local norms and culture that itself is the cause of poverty. Moreover, he argues that in developing states, development has been proven problematic, he criticizes the notion that development would eradicate poverty and improve the way of living, and he says that it is rather destructive. Moreover, he further questions that is development a solution or a problem itself.<sup>8</sup> Various scholars, theorists, and institutions have perceived their definition of development

Development is an idea or a process subjective to every individual and it contextually different for various people.<sup>9</sup> It is a vast term having multiple terms associated with it like change, growth, income, GDP, freedom, empowerment, social inclusion, poverty eradication, wealth, production, universal education, immortality rate, and many more. One individual's development can be another person's destruction. Mahmoud (1991) argues that previously development was associated with an increase in per capita income irrespective of wealth

---

<sup>5</sup> Israel, Sid. "What Is Development?" Sid Israel, 11 Mar. 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Shiraz Dossa, "Slicing up 'Development': Colonialism, Political Theory, Ethics," *Third World Quarterly* 28(5) (2007): 887-99.

<sup>7</sup> Vandana Shiva, *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply* (Cambridge: South End Press, 2000).

<sup>8</sup> Ivan Illich, 'Needs', in Sachs, *The Development Dictionary*, 94.

<sup>9</sup> William Mark, *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World* (London: Routledge, 2019).

distribution.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, Pearson (2000) believes that development is defined as the increased quantity and improved availability of resources.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, some scholars argue that development is not the end product but a process itself. Furthermore, development in developing countries is seen as an adaptation of the qualities of developed countries by developing countries until their economy reaches a certain point where they can self-sustain their country.<sup>12</sup> However, the researcher argues that statistics show that there has been an increase in income per capita but socio-economic crises like poverty, unemployment, and inequality persist in a large amount. Furthermore, the concept and understanding of development have evolved over the years.

Various scholars, theorists, and institutions define development in different ways. For example, Rostow seeks help from social Darwinism to define development, he says that it is evolutionary progression. While Ribeiro defines development as a state, practice, well-being, economic and human growth or ecological balance”. Contrastingly, Schumpeter defines development as innovation or advancement<sup>13</sup>. Similarly, The South Commission defines it as an evolving and developmental process of self that liberates the people from fear and exploitation. Moreover, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines development as an increased number of choices for the masses to enjoy social, economic, and political freedom. In this regard, the human development index was formed. The Human development index was created to highlight that individuals and their abilities should be the decisive criteria for measuring the development of a state, not economic development alone. The Human Development Index (HDI) is the average measure of achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long

---

<sup>10</sup> Najoki Wane, “Indigenous Feminist Thought,” in *the politics of cultural knowledge*, (Sense publishers, 2011), 7-21.

<sup>11</sup> Ruth Pearson, “Rethinking Gender Matters in Development, “in *Poverty and development into the 21st century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

<sup>12</sup> Stan Barkey, *People First: A Guide to Self-reliance, Participatory Rural Development* (London: Zed Books, 1993).

<sup>13</sup> Joseph A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (Rio de Janeiro: Zahar Editores, 1984).

and healthy life, being well-informed, and have a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized catalogs for each of the three dimensions that are social, economic, and environmental development.<sup>14</sup>

Some scholars argue that in the case of economic development there is not any need for developmental theory, rather theories of economics shall be used to measure development. World Bank take development as human development and provide assistance to fulfill basic human necessities like education, health, social protection. Theorists, scholars, Regional and international institutes are suggesting and providing ways to achieve their perceived development whether it is economic, social, political, or human development. In this regard, the concept of sustainable development was initiated in 1987 in the world commission on environment and development, also well-known as the Brundtland Commission.<sup>15</sup> At this commission, the term sustainable development was defined as the “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.<sup>16</sup> In this report, it was recognized that development has three subdivisions that are improved economic growth, improved quality of living circumstances while keeping the surroundings safe. Succeeding the Brundtland report, in 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development conducted a summit in Rio de Janeiro to establish a set of aims to achieve sustainable development, these goals were named millennium development goals. These were eight goals that were established to cope up with the issues of underdeveloped and developed states. They were to be achieved by 2015. These goals were

---

<sup>14</sup> UNDP, “Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century” in *Human development report 2019*, report (New York, 2019).

<sup>15</sup> Iris Borowy, *Defining sustainable development for our common future: a history of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, report (Brundtland Commission, 2014).

<sup>16</sup> Racheal Emas, “The concept of sustainable development: definition and defining principles”, *Florida International University*, 2015.

targeted to combat poverty, minimize hunger, improve health conditions, reduce illiteracy, cope with environmental degradation, to reduce discrimination against women, and lastly to establish a worldwide partnership for development.

After millennium development goals, In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly designed a framework for sustainable development for agenda 2030. It was agreed upon by member states and named as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some of the goals were an extension of millennium development goals for instance, no poverty, zero hunger, and improve health conditions and gender equality.<sup>17</sup> Sustainable development goals are seventeen in number and have 169 targets. Unlike MDGs, SDGs covers a wide range of social and economic development aspects and it aims at inclusive development of all the states of the world sustainability.

The overarching debate is about development whether its millennium development or sustainable development. Researchers have worked on multiple dimensions of sustainable development ranging from etymological origins concerning linguistics, the evolution of development, analysis, and assessment of indicators and targets, challenges for implementation to correlation between goals. From a linguistic perspective, researchers argue that sustainability and development are the opposite schools of thought. Moreover, research shows that sustainability is a Spanish word that means to hold some to prevent it from falling whereas in English it is translated as a continuous process with maintained pace.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore research has been done on the role of international private organizations in prioritizing goals for implementation, for an instant, one case study shows that the goals selected for implementation

---

<sup>17</sup> Sanjiv Kumar, Neeta Kumar, and Saxena Vivekadhis, "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Addressing Unfinished Agenda and Strengthening Sustainable Development and Partnership," *Indian Journal of Community Medicine* 41(1) (2016): 1–4.

<sup>18</sup> Leonardo Alberto Rios Osorio, Manuel Ortiz Lobato and Xavier Álvarez Del Castillo, "Debates on Sustainable Development: Towards a Holistic View of Reality," *Environ Dev Sustain* 7(2005):501–518.

by Japanese companies were influenced by native communities, host country regulations, NGOs, and regulatory authorities.<sup>19</sup>

Additionally, worldwide research has been done on various SDGs based on their proprieties. One study found out that the most universally researched SDGs were Climate action, Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities. Among them, climate action is the most research SDG globally. Climate action is considered one of the most important SDGs because it correlates with various other important SDGs that deal with necessities including food availability and production, water availability, energy security, and agriculture. Unlike them, life below water, decent economic growth, peace, justice, and strong institutions, are among the least researched. However, regionally it varies from continents to continent according to priorities and challenges faced. For instance, Africa faces massive poverty, hunger, inequalities, and sanitation issues, therefore, research in this region surrounds these goals. Unlike the African continent, research in Europe focuses on innovation, industry, education, infrastructure, and sustainable consumption. Moreover, in Asia research focus on climate action, education, reduced inequalities, life on land, and the least researched goal is peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Unlike the progress, various regions face challenges in accomplishing various goals. For instance, a study shows that the United States of America faces hurdles in accomplished SDG 2(zero hunger) because its agricultural system is not sustainable. Moreover, obesity rates are much higher than cause multiple diseases. Likewise, the US faces challenges in accomplishing SDG17 because of a deficit in financial assistance to international development

---

<sup>19</sup> Masayoshi Ike, Jerome Denis Donovan, Cheree Topple, Eryadi Kordi Masli, "The process of selecting and prioritizing corporate sustainability issues: Insights for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 236(2017).

cooperation.<sup>20</sup> The African continent faces the highest challenges in achieving SDGs including poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, poor water and agriculture management, inequalities, climate change, and conflicts.<sup>21</sup> Scholars argue that these hurdles are the consequence of instability and conflicts in the region.<sup>22</sup> Contrastingly, research shows that Asia has better performance in the progress of SDGs. It varies from country to county but the major challenges faced are climate change, food insecurity, gender inequality, education, and insecurity.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, Sustainable development goals are interrelated and dependent on each other. This interdependence is beneficial that is by the accomplishment of one goal, it creates a path for the accomplishment of another goal. Contrastingly, some goals are contradictory to each other that is by the accomplishment of one goal, it creates hurdles for another goal. If collaborative measures are taken to Achieve Goals, the 2030 agenda can progress in its full swing. For example, if better education facilities are provided to women that in turn would provide improved maternal health outcomes, moreover, it would contribute to gender equality and poverty eradication by the increased contribution of women in the economy.<sup>24</sup> It portrays that by effectively working on goal number four that is quality education to all, it can contribute to the accomplishment of goal number three, one eight, and five indirectly. Similarly, in sub-Saharan Africa, the accomplishment of zero hunger goal correlate with various other goals. For

---

<sup>20</sup> Jeffrey Sachs, Guido Schmidt-Traub, Christian Kroll, David Durand-Delacré, and Katerina Teksoz, *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017*, report ( New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2017).

<sup>21</sup> Amanda Lange, Salviaa Walter, Leal Filhobc, Luciana L Brandlia, Juliane S Griebelera, " Assessing research trends related to sustainable development Goals: Local and global issues," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 208(2019):841-849.

<sup>22</sup> Jeffrey Sachs, Guido Schmidt-Traub, Christian Kroll, David Durand-Delacré, and Katerina Teksoz, *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017*, report ( New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2017).

<sup>23</sup> Salvia, Amanda Lange, Walter Leal Filho, Luciana Londero Brandli, and Juliane Sapper Griebeler, "Assessing research trends related to Sustainable Development Goals: local and global issues," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 208, 1 (2019): 841-849.

<sup>24</sup> Nilsson, Måns, Elinor Chisholm, David Griggs, Philippa Howden-Chapman, David McCollum, Peter Messerli, Barbara Neumann, Anne-Sophie Stevance, Martin Visbeck, and Mark Stafford-Smith, "Mapping interactions between the sustainable development goals: lessons learned and ways forward," *Sustainability Science*. 13 (6) (2018): 1489-1503.



instance, poverty and hunger go side by side. Similarly, good health is related to food Security. Furthermore, nutritional food will add to the better health and improved ability of students for learning.<sup>25</sup> It demonstrates that the accomplishment of goal number two is of utmost importance as it facilitates the accomplishment of several other goals. Likewise, zero hunger correlates positively with many goals including life on land, food consumption, and production, life underneath water, Peace, and justice, climate change mitigation that is SDG15, SDG14, SDG12, SDG16, and SDG13 respectively.

Unlike many synergies, there are multiple tradeoffs between various goals. For instance, the goal of responsible consumption and production of resources is undesirably associated with the goal of economic goals.<sup>26</sup> Similarly, the authors argue that eradication of poverty is strongly associated with the goal of access to clean water and sanitation, clean energy, and zero hunger. Moreover, research also shows that clean water is not merely a subject of water sanitation but it is a consequence of inequality and poverty that are associated with goal numbers one and ten respectively.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, a study was conducted in which microloans were given to developing countries comprising Ghana and Bangladesh for access to clean water, however, an average reimbursement rate was 99%, indicating the connections among the access of water and sanitation and poverty mitigation.<sup>28</sup> Moreover, another study shows that to eradicate poverty and hunger, there shall be agricultural practices that will reduce the availability of renewable energy, moreover, it would restrict the fisheries to safeguard marine life and would increase

---

<sup>25</sup> Jonathan A. Foley, Navin Ramankutty, Kate A. Brauman, Emily S. Cassidy, James S. Gerber, Matt Johnston, Nathaniel D. Mueller, Christine O'Connell, Deepak K. Ray, Paul C. West, Christian Balzer, Elena M. Bennett, Stephen R. Carpenter, Jason Hill, Chad Monfreda, Stephen Polasky, Johan Rockström, John Sheehan, Stefan Siebert, David Tilman and David P. M. Zaks, "Solutions for a cultivated planet," *Nature*. 478 (2011): 337-342.

<sup>26</sup> Mainali, Brijesh, Jyrki Luukkanen, Semida Silveira, and Jari Kaivo-oja, "Evaluating Synergies and Trade-Offs among Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Explorative Analyses of Development Paths in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa," *Sustainability*. 10 (3)(2018): 815.

<sup>27</sup> UNDP, "Human development report 2006: beyond scarcity: power, poverty and the global water crisis," report (New York, NY: Oxford University Press for UNDP, 2006).

<sup>28</sup> Lesley Pories, "Income-enabling, not consumptive: Association of household socioeconomic conditions with safe water and sanitation," *Aquat Procedia* (2016): 74–86.

deforestation. It indicates that to achieve goal number one and two, goal number 7, 14, and 15 are negatively affected.<sup>29</sup> Similarly, the goal of poverty eradication in developing countries is increasing the environmental crisis.

These synergies and tradeoffs also differ from states to states. For example, a study was conducted to evaluate and analyze interactions between sustainable development goals among six developing states: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. The study shows that Rwanda has relatively lower potential synergy in the Sub-Saharan Africa than Ghana, contrastingly, Sri Lanka has moderately higher and Nepal has relatively lesser possible synergy in South Asia among numerous targets related to energy and other goals. Moreover, it also concludes that where the government has recognized the interrelations between goals, the progress is better to achieve goals. Researchers argue that policymaking and implementation can be made more effective to achieve sustainable development goals if the correlation between sustainable development goals is identified and policies are made in accordance. The tradeoffs can be converted into synergies if appropriate measures are implemented.

Since millennium development goals on the way to sustainable development goals, there has been the inclusion of additional goals, most of these goals are interrelated.<sup>30</sup> Authors argue that Sustainable development goals almost cover every aspect of the socio-political and economic system, however, there are tradeoffs in some goals. For instance, to achieve the goal of number two of no hunger by increasing agricultural productivity in a rural area might increase deforestation that affects the environment aspect of SDGs. Similarly, industrialization can improve living standards but there is environmental cost related to it.<sup>31</sup> Similarly, research also

---

<sup>29</sup> David Le Blanc, "Towards integration at Last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets", *Sustainable Development* 23 (2015):176–187.

<sup>30</sup> Timko Joleen, Philippe Le Billon, Hisham Zerriffi, Jordi Honey-Rosés, Ian de la Roche, Chris Gaston, Terry CH Sunderland, and Rob A Kazak, "A policy nexus approach to forests and the SDGs: tradeoffs and synergies," *Current opinion in environmental sustainability* 34, 1 (2018): 7-12.

<sup>31</sup> Vamsidhar Akurajua, Prajal Pradhan, Dagmar Haase, Jürgen Kroppad, P. Diego Rybskiaie, "A systematic study of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) interactions," *Earth's Future* 5(2017): 1169–1179.

agrees that achieving social, economic, and environmental sustainability simultaneously is the biggest challenge faced to achieve SDGs.<sup>32</sup> For instance researchers argue that if poverty is eradicated on the cost of environmental degradation that it nullifies the accomplishment of goal number one.<sup>33</sup>

Furthermore, another challenge to sustainable development goals is the non-binding of these goals. At the national level, governments are under no compulsion to include sustainable development goals in their state policy.<sup>34</sup> Therefore global political forum was established to review and update about the SDGs, however, the details and functioning mechanism is still not clear.<sup>35</sup> Authors argue that the weak global institutions do not ensure the success of SDGs, rather it's a bottom-up approach that requires local government and civil society involvement in the success of SDGs.<sup>36</sup> Moreover, lack of accountability from national and international authorities and vague measuring progress mechanisms are also among the challenges faced for the success of SDGs.<sup>37</sup>

Moving to individual goals, Poverty is considered one of the priority goals in the 2030 agenda. Poverty is a multidimensional term that not only includes income per capita but also other aspects including public health, education, drinking water, and sanitation.<sup>38</sup> Poverty elimination and sustainable development go hand in hand, sustainable development cannot be

---

<sup>32</sup> Anita Breuer, Hannah Janetschek, Daniele Malaria," Translating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Interdependencies into Policy Advice," *Sustainability* 11(2019).

<sup>33</sup> Kanie Norichika, and Frank Biermann," *Governing through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation* (London, England: MIT Press, 2017).

<sup>34</sup> Åsa Persson, Nina Weitz, Måns Nilsson," Follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals: alignment vs internalization," *Rev Eur Comp Int Environ Law* 25 (2016):59-68.

<sup>35</sup> Maarten Hajer, Måns Nilsson, Kate Raworth, Peter Bakker, Frans Berkhout, Yvo De Boer, Johan Rockström, Kathrin Ludwig and Marcel Kok, "Beyond Cockpit-ism: Four Insights to Enhance the Transformative Potential of the Sustainable Development Goals," *Sustainability* 7, 2(2015): 1651-1660.

<sup>36</sup> Frank Biermann, Norichika Kanie, Rakhyun E. Kim, "Global governance by goal-setting: The novel approach of the UN Sustainable Development Goals," *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 26(2017):26– 31.

<sup>37</sup> Jamila Haider, Wiebren J. Boonstra, Garry D. Peterson, Maja Schlüter, "Traps and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas: A Review," *World Development* 10(2018): 311-321.

<sup>38</sup> Qian-Qian Liu, Man Yu, Xiao-Lin Wang,"Poverty reduction within the framework of SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda," *Advances in Climate Change Research* 6(2015): 67-73.

achieved in isolation than poverty.<sup>39</sup> However, it is considered as a hurdle in achieving other goals. Previously, in millennium development goals, developed countries have a major role in the mitigation of climate change, however, in sustainable development goals, there is an integrated approach and both developing and developed countries had to play its role. A study shows that apart from the low-income states, the major concentration of poor reside in middle-income states.<sup>40</sup> Researchers argue that climate change mitigation policy is inversely proportional to developmental policies. Moreover, Study shows that the climate mitigation policy and its cost would result in an increase in poverty in the short term. However, in the longer run, it is less cost-effective than the damages induced by climate change.<sup>41</sup> Moreover, climate change and poverty have a close link because due to the consequences of climate change, the most vulnerable communities are more affected.<sup>42</sup> It will further decrease the access to drinking water, affect agriculture in turn increase food security, it would lead to increase waterborne diseases, increase of floods, wildfires. Researchers argue that the integration of goals one and fifteen is necessary to achieve sustainable development.

A study in South Africa shows a correlation between gender equality and poverty. Researchers argue that goal number one can have positive results if gender equality is achieved. Due to lesser participation of women in economic growth. The unemployment rate of women in Africa is 70-80 %. This thought was recognized long ago by the organization for economic cooperation and development in an article considering Gender equality as a Basic element for Poverty Mitigation and Sustainable Development. The same research argues that poverty and

---

<sup>39</sup> Andy Sumner, "Where Do the World's Poor Live?" (Paper, Brighton: IDS, 2012).

<sup>40</sup> Lorenza Campagnolo, Marinella Davide, "Can the Paris deal boost SDGs achievement? An assessment of climate mitigation co-benefits or side-effects on poverty and inequality," *World Development* 122(2019), 96–109.

<sup>41</sup> Schleicher Judith, Marije Schaafsma, and Bhaskar Vira, "Will the Sustainable Development Goals address the links between poverty and the natural environment?" *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 34(2018): 43-47.

<sup>42</sup> Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad, "Gender equality for achieving sustainable development goal one (no poverty) in South African municipalities," *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity Studies* 11(2019).

gender equality shall be worked on simultaneously. For instants like gender-sensitive roles and gender mainstreaming in governmental policy for socio-economic development.<sup>43</sup> Moreover, as we have already mentioned, poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, it is just not income per capita, it cannot be isolated from human rights, peaceful and just societies.<sup>44</sup> Some authors argue that masses are affected by environmental degradation, not as a consequence of unsustainable development but poverty itself.<sup>45</sup> Researchers also argue that much energy shall be focused on the root causes of unsustainable development. Furthermore, research shows that poor are most dependent on natural resources therefore more prone to environment-related conflict. Similarly, in a case study on sustainable development goals and poverty eradication in Nigeria via human capital development, the researcher argues that along with corruption and lack of accountability in Nigeria, there are multiple catalysts of poverty that includes lack of attention on the agriculture sector, poor health conditions, low literacy rate, increased urbanization, and unequal distribution of resources. In the same study, authors argue that by investing in healthcare and education sector particularly vocational and skill base training, goal number one of sustainable development goals can be achieved. Moreover, it would create entrepreneurship thinking and create more employment opportunities to eradicate poverty.<sup>46</sup> Pakistan is the sixth most populous country and 52% of the people live below the poverty line. A correlation between poverty and socioeconomic deprivation estimates that 44% of the rural population poor drinking water facilities, poor sanitation, inadequate residence conditions, and an immense lack of economic resources.<sup>47</sup> Moreover, multidimensional poverty presides in

---

<sup>43</sup> Manzoor Ahmed, "Economic dimensions of sustainable development, the fight against poverty and educational responses," *International Review of Education* 56 (2010): 235-253.

<sup>44</sup> Julie Njoku, Judith C Onyegbula, "Human Capital Development as a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Nigerian Education System," *African Research Review* 11 (2)(2017): 178.

<sup>45</sup> Ihtsham Ul Haq Padda and Abdul Hameed, "Estimating multidimensional poverty levels in rural Pakistan: A contribution to sustainable development policies," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 197(2018): 435-442.

<sup>46</sup> Thomas Pogge, "The hunger games," *Food Ethics* 1 (1) (2016): 9-27.

<sup>47</sup> Derek Byerlee and Jessica Fanzo, "The SDG of zero hunger 75 years on: Turning full circle on agriculture and nutrition," *Global Food Security* 21(2019):52-59.

Pakistan. As already mentioned above this socioeconomic deprivation create conflict. Unequal distribution of resources, inflation, ignorance of the agricultural sector, and insufficient income of some professions including doctors create grievances among the masses that lead to protests every other day and is a major cause of chaos in the country.

Similarly, Zero hunger is the second goal of sustainable development goals. It is the successor of MDG 2. Following MDG, many researchers have pointed out the drawbacks of MDG, and it was later amended in SDGs. For instance, it had a single food-related policy for every region, however, the different states had different reasons for malnutrition. For example, poverty was the major reason for malnutrition in Africa.<sup>48</sup> Contrastingly, poor sanitation conditions leading to diarrhea and stunting are considered as a major reason for malnutrition in India. Therefore every region needs an appropriate policy to eradicate hunger.<sup>49</sup> Moreover, the progress of SDG 2 was uneven. In sustainable development goals, priority areas are identified clearly to have a better progress. Moreover, agriculture was identified as one of the important priorities linked to nutrition. Various projects for creating more nutritious varieties were initiated including research programs including Harvest Plus for developing bio fortified crops and Agriculture for Nutrition and Health Program to promote more research on nutrition-related to agriculture.<sup>50</sup> Furthermore, SDG two has a broader perspective of a food system that is inclusive of nutrition, agriculture production, processing, packaging, storage, transport, and access to food. Moreover, researchers argue that to achieve SDGs economic and political transformative change is also necessary. Previously to cope up with food insecurity, industrialized agriculture came into being leading to the bloom of calories that created other consequences including deficiencies of micronutrients and obesity-related diseases. Previously

---

<sup>48</sup> Margarret Mead, "Food as a Basis for International Co-Operation." *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 14(5) (1994):258-264.

<sup>49</sup> Jennifer Blesh, Lesli Hoey, Andrew Jones, Harriet Friedmann, Ivette Perfecto, "Development pathways toward "zero hunger," *World Development* 118(2019): 1-14.

<sup>50</sup> Tom Cernev and Richard Fenner, "The importance of achieving foundational Sustainable Development Goals in reducing global risk," *Futures* 115(2020).

food shortage was considered food insecurity, however, now lack of nutrition is also added in the food insecurity category. Furthermore, it has been explored then this goal is related to various other goals having synergies and tradeoffs for instance poverty eradication, Improved health, education for all, sustainable cities, climate change mitigation, and sustainable forest management, therefore it shall be handled inclusively to be efficient. However, research shows that numerous targets cannot be achieved without shortcomings.<sup>51</sup>

SDG 16, that is peace, justice, and strong institution is related to almost every goal. SDG 16 along with SDG17 have direct or indirect relation with other goals as they deal with organizational requirements to fulfill other goals.<sup>52</sup> Authors argue that it is the core of all goals then why it is goal 16 and not one. Moreover, without this goal, no other goal can be accomplished effectively and it won't be long-lasting. Moreover, research shows that those states which were not able to achieve MDGs were embedded in conflict.<sup>53</sup> Additionally, research shows that this goal has the highest number of targets but insufficient indicators. For example, the target to encourage the rule of law at the state and global levels is very wide and it would take a huge amount of indicators to identify the progress that cannot be done by few indicators.<sup>54</sup> Moreover concerning SDG16, talks about peaceful societies and inclusive government, some authors argue that not a single target includes women participation in this area, although research shows a positive relationship between the high representation of women

---

<sup>51</sup> Kumar Raman and Roy Pritam, "War and peace: Is our world serious about achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030?" *Journal of family medicine and primary care*, 7(6) (2018):1153–1156.

<sup>52</sup> Juan Carlos Botero, Angela Pinzon, Christine S. Pratt, "How, When and Why Do Governance, Justice and Rule of Law Indicators Fail Public Policy Decision Making in Practice?" *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*, 8(1) (2016):51–74.

<sup>53</sup> UN Women, Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace, Chapter 3, 'Women's Participation and a better Understanding of the Political,' report (New York: UN Women, 2015).

<sup>54</sup> Karin Hammarberg, Maggie Kirkman and Sheryl de Lacey, "Qualitative research methods: when to use them and how to judge them," *Human Reproduction* 31(3) (2016):498–501.

in government and politics and effective conflict resolution. Moreover, research also shows that where there are more women in government offices, there is less corruption.<sup>55</sup>

Lastly, the purpose of this literature review was to study and identify the research and debates related to sustainable development goals. This literature review shows that sustainable development goals have been studied in many dimensions including their correlation, challenges, and implementation. However, there is a literature gap in the case of Pakistan about the relation between Sustainable development goals and peace accomplishment in Pakistan academically and theoretically. This research aims to fill that gap by conducting qualitative research by using purposive interviews as a sampling tool.

---

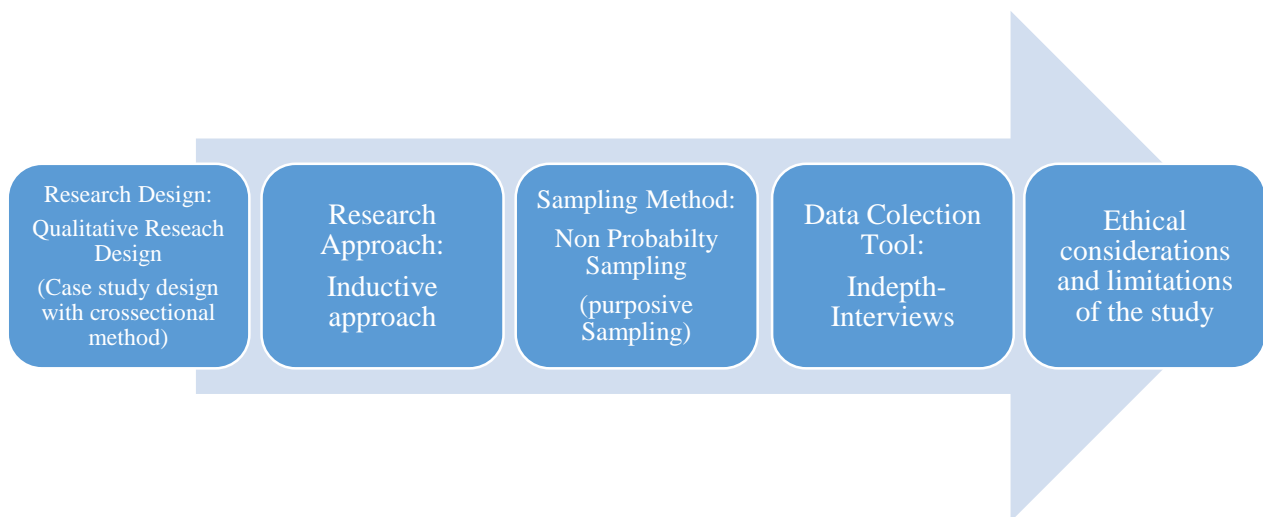
<sup>55</sup> Judith Bell, *Doing your Research Project: a guide for first-time researchers in education and social science* (Buckingham: OUP, 2005), 4.



## Chapter 3: Research Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction

As it is indicated in the title, this chapter includes the research methodology of the thesis. In more detail, the researcher outlines the research design, the research approach, and methods of data collection, the selection of the sample, the research process, the ethical consideration, and the research limitations of the project. Following research strategy is flowed in this chapter:



*Figure 1: Research Methodology*

### 3.2 Research Design: Qualitative Research

This study aims to explore the relationship between development and peace through accomplishment of sustainable development goals in case of Pakistan. In order to satisfy the objectives of this study, qualitative research design was selected. Qualitative research is defined as: “Qualitative research is multi method in focus, involving an interpretative, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the

meanings people bring to them.”<sup>56</sup> In the current research, qualitative in-depth interviews were utilized to collect data. In-depth interviews provides data in the form of observations, words and their meanings which is interpretative in nature and cannot be quantified, therefore, this study is qualitative research. Moreover, qualitative research is considered as an appropriate research design where the sample size is small size is small and outcome is not measurable and quantifiable.<sup>57</sup> Since the present study has relatively smaller sample size and outcome is not measurable or quantifiable, therefore, it makes the present study a qualitative study. Additionally, it is the case study research design.

### **3.3 Sampling**

In this study, purposive sampling was selected for sample selection which belongs to the category of non-probability sampling. In this method, all the personnel of the populace are not provided with equal chance to be the part of representative sample. According to this method, the sample members are selected on the basis of their knowledge expertise regarding research subject. Likewise, in the present study, eight individuals from government institutes having sound knowledge and working experience regarding selected sustainable goals (no poverty, zero hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable communities, peace, and justice and string institutions) were selected. The selected individuals are currently serving in the government instructions. These institutions are:

1. Ministry of planning development and special initiatives (MOPD AND SI)
2. Federal SDGs support unit
3. Parliamentary SDGs secretariat

---

<sup>56</sup> Norman Denzin and Yvonna S. Lincoln, *The discipline and practice of qualitative research* (Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications,2005),1-32.

<sup>57</sup> Jacqueline Klentzin, “The borderland of value: Examining student attitudes towards secondary research,” *Reference Services Review* 38 (2010):557-570.

4. United Nations Development Program
5. Poverty alleviation and SDG
6. AJK SDG unit

### **3.4 Data collection methods and tools**

In this study, the research data was collected through primary and secondary sources. Both sources were utilized to gather adequate and significant data to meet the requirements of research objectives. The major source of data collection in this research was in-depth detailed interviews. While for secondary data collection, reports from UNDP and government official websites, research articles, and the news was used. In the present study, online and telephonic interviews were conducted to carry out research. To carry out interviews, a semi-structured questionnaire was created and used as an interview guide. Moreover, additional questions were counter asked in response to the participant's response. The interview guide was designed in the English language because the sample population was educated individuals from prestigious institutes from the government sector.

### **3.5 Interview Guide**

The interview guide was divided in four sections .Each sections comprised of 3-5 questions. The sample questions that were asked are given below:

1. How are the SDGs (zero poverty, no hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, peace, justice and strong institutions) related to maintaining peace or avoiding conflict in Pakistan?
2. Would working on them improve the current security situation?

3. How well has the relationship between SDGs (zero poverty, no hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, peace, justice and strong institutions) and peace been explored in Pakistan?
4. What kind of conflicts are likely to emerge in Pakistan if SDGs (zero poverty, no hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, peace, justice and strong institutions) are not accomplished?
5. How do you see the state of governance and the state of peace in the country?
6. Amongst the three sub-branches of sustainable development (economic development, social development or environmental development) which of the three receive government priority?
7. Is there any private-government partnership regarding SDGs in Pakistan?
8. What is the current social policy of Pakistan pertaining the aforementioned SDGs (zero poverty, no hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, peace, justice and strong institutions)?
9. In your view, what are the transformations needed to improve social policy?
10. What are the necessary structural modifications/transformations needed for accomplishing these goals?
11. Which dimensions of developments (social, economic, environment) can possibly be directly impacted by the accomplishment of the aforementioned SDGs (zero poverty, no hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, peace, justice and strong institutions)?

12. Is goal#16(peace, justice, strong institutions) the core of all the SDGs?
13. If yes, are concerned authorities aiming at mitigating at the root causes of conflict?
14. Looking at the literature, it seems that SDG 11(sustainable cities and communities) is not prioritized and is less researched, why it is so.
15. Similarly goals 16 (peace. Justice and strong institutes) is least researched goal in Asia, what are your view?

### **3.6 Research Process**

In this study, research process was planned as follows. Secondary data was collected through research articles, news, websites and reports. It was followed by in-depth interview. The interview was supposed to be face to face interviews of experienced individuals from government offices in which body language, participant behavior and responses were to be observed. However, due to global pandemic, face to face interviews were avoided to minimize interaction.

In contrast, telephonic and online interviews were conducted. Emails and calls were send to numerous institutes and individual like FAO, WHO, CDA, UNDP , SDG support units, secretariat, Ministry of planning and reforms and poverty alleviation program. However ,out of many institutes , only eight individuals from government offices including Ministry of planning development and special initiatives ,Federal SDG support unit, Parliamentary SDG secretariat, United Nations Development Program ,Leadership for Environment and Development Pakistan (LEAD PAKISTAN),Poverty alleviation program gave a positive response and agreed to participate in interview. The total time period utilized for conduction of these interviews was between two to three months during April 2020 to June 2020. The researcher explained the nature and scope of the study to the participant's beforehand. The time

period of each interview was thirty to forty five minutes, depending upon the response of participants. Some of them choose to respond briefly while others choose to give detail and comprehensive answers. The interview guide designed for this purpose comprised of open ended question where respondent was free to answer as per their opinion and experience. The medium for conducting interviews were telephonic calls, Skype, Google meet and what's app calls and written interviews depending on feasibility of participants. During the interviews, the responses were written in the form of short notes. Moreover, participants were ask for their permission to record the conversation to facilitate the researcher in analyzing the data efficiently. At last, it shall be noted that the conversation went smoothly and participants were able to express their opinion in an efficient way.

### **3.7 Ethical consideration**

The researcher took special care of ethical consideration in this study. Participants were asked for their permission to record their conversation for better analysis by the researcher. Moreover, researcher asked the participants for their permission to mention their identity the thesis. For that purpose consent form was signed by the participants. Furthermore, participants were informed about aims of the study and were assured that their responses would be confidential and would be used for academic purpose only. Moreover, the researcher created and maintain the comfortable environment.

### **3.8 Participants of the Study**

Following is the list of participants who participated in this study and their designation, others decided to keep their identity anonymous, and have not been named:

Participants codes	Participant name	Designation
--------------------	------------------	-------------

Respondent 1	Mr. Hassan Hakeem	Coordinator parliamentary SDGs secretariat
Respondent 2	Mr. Sameer Khan	Development consultant SDGs secretariat
Respondent 3	Anonymous	Economic policy analysis, SDGs Support Unit
Respondent 4	Anonymous	Social Policy Advisor, SDGs Support Unit
Respondent 5	Dr. Shabnum Sarfaraz	Member Social Sector & Devolution  Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives  Lead National COVID 19 Secretariat  Planning Commission
Respondent 6	Anonymous	Assistant Chief, Poverty Alleviation & SDGs (Ministry

		of Planning Development and Reform)
Respondent 7	Mr. Shah Muhammad	Economic Policy Analyst, SDG Support Unit at UNDP
Respondent 8	Mr. Ali Gillani	SDGs Coordinator AJK

*Figure 2: list of participants, their codes and their designation*

### **3.9 Limitations of the Research**

The central objective of the study was to contextualize peace and development in Pakistan via achievement of sustainable development goals. Although the study was conducted by in-depth interviews of informed people, this study was subject to some limitations. It is anticipated that below mentioned limitations will assist future scholars to avoid facing the same limitations.

1. The sample size was relatively small. The initial strategy involved 12 to 15 number of participants, but, subsequently post the data gathering and compiling, there were only 8 participants for the research. The major factor was that the global pandemic created huddles in communication mainly face to face communication. Very few Individuals agreed for participating in online interviews for unknown reason. The reason might be that the participants were not interested in contributing or did not have the time to contribute to this study. Moreover, out of these, some of the volunteers committed to participate, however due to medical condition of the participants and the researcher, the interviews could not be conducted.
2. This research data is influenced by current global pandemic (COVID19). Almost every participant discussed sustainable development goal (SDG3-improved health) which was not part of this study, Therefore the participants seemed to be distracted.
3. Qualitative research does not provide statistical data of the examined problems.



4. The time period of this research was very less which was even reduced by global pandemic.

### **3.10 Conclusion**

This chapter initiates with an introduction of this chapter. Then it elaborates the research design followed in this study and provides the reason for using qualitative research. Furthermore, population size and sample study is also talked about before mentioning the research methodology used to carry out this research. In collecting data, both secondary and primary sources are utilized that are library and field research. For field research, qualitative method is selected in which number of interviewees are involved in the research process. The collected data is then analyzed through descriptive analysis mentioned in succeeding chapters.

## **Chapter 4: Findings and Analysis**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter provides an insight into the data collected in this study. It consists of three sections in which various factors are viewed through the respondent's responses. The first section aims to provide an insight into the relationship between peace and the above mentioned SDGs in Pakistan. The second section would provide an insight into governance and institutes' role in the accomplishment of peace via sustainable development goals. The last section enlightens the readers with the current social policy of Pakistan and the transformation that it needs to achieve sustainable development goals. The gathered data presented is specific to SDG1 (no poverty), SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG10 (reduced inequalities), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions). These results are discussed in the next chapter.

### **4.2 Accomplishment of Peace through SDGs in Pakistan**

Various participants responded to questions regarding the accomplishment of peace through SDGs according to their perception and experience of multiple years. There were certain commonalities and differences in response to the various question. Below mentioned are some significant findings that would help the reader explore the relationship between development and peace.

#### **4.2.1 Peace as a Precondition and an Overarching Goal**

Peace is the backbone of Sustainable Development Goals. Some of the respondents were of the view that peace, justice, and strong institutions are a precondition for achieving other socioeconomic goals. Most of the respondents see direct or indirect relation between these two, however, there was an alternate response from one participant. For instance, Respondent 5 (Member Social Sector and Devolution for MoPD and SI) argued that "Goal 16 is an

overarching SDGs”. She was of the view that other goals including zero poverty and reduced inequalities are the outcome goals. If we are able to achieve SDG 16, it would create a path for achieving other goals and these are the outcome of SDG 16. Similarly, another respondent, chief assistant SDGs, ministry of planning, and reforms consider peace as a precondition for achieving other goals. Moreover, he stated that it is an enabler goal that is necessary for reducing socio-economic disparities. Furthermore, Respondent 1 called the SDGs framework as a reframing of United Nations human rights. He finds a direct correlation between peace and development. Moreover, he was of the view that the ten years of discourse on counter-terrorism suggests that effectively working on marginalization (reduced inequalities) would improve the security situation in Pakistan. Likewise, Respondent 7 (Economic Policy Analyst, SDG Support Unit at UNDP) stated that the SDGs are inherently interconnected. They are formed with the philosophy that solutions to one sector are not limited to that sector only. For example, effective Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (SDG 6) policies and programs directly impact the Health Sector (SDG 3), which then impacts Education (SDG 4) among other sectors. Similarly, higher rates of poverty and hunger inadvertently lead to a rise in crime. There is a famous quote by Pearl S. Buck: “Hunger makes a thief of any man”. Conversely, better standards of living are correlated with lower crime rates. Contrastingly, one of the respondents (economic policy analyst) argued that socioeconomic issues can be solved even if peace is not achieved in Pakistan. For instance, he stated that even if goal 16 is not achieved, poverty can still be reduced. Although in answer to another question he sees direct relation between peace and social issues however other factors are also involved.

#### 4.2.3 Geo-Political Dimension as the Cause of Conflict

Some respondents see peace as an enabler goal, however, two of the respondents see other factors being involved in achieving peace. Respondent 7 stated that besides socioeconomic issues, macro geopolitical issues need to be addressed to bring sustainable peace. Similarly,

another participant argued that geographical security is equally important, for that purpose goal 17 (Global partnership) is of utmost importance rather than Goal 16(Peace, justice, and strong institutions).while others didn't mention the geographical aspect.

#### 4.2.4 Population Explosion (Real Threat) and Resource Distribution

One of the significant findings was identifying the population as a source of chaos in the country. Respondent 5 argued that currently, the population is the denominator of all the issues faced by Pakistan. She argued that it is a greater threat than terrorism and geopolitical issues. That creates huge challenges of resource distribution hence result in inequality, poverty, and increased crime rate. Likewise, another respondent also identified resource distribution as a big challenge for Pakistan. Additionally, Respondent 2 focused on child protection policy. He was of the view that all these goals have a resulting impact on child rights and future generations. For instance in low-income families, the priority of families' changes, their prime focus is to bring food on the table by any means, this results in increased robberies, therefore his major focus was on child polices because it is one of the causes of cyclic poverty and increase in crime rate.

#### 4.2.5 Peace as an Isolated Entity

Upon asking if the relationship between peace and development is explored by policymakers and academicians in Pakistan. The majority of the participants had the opinion that it is indeed explored but with peace as an isolated entity, it has not been explored academically in the context of sustainable development goals. Respondent 7 was of the view that it creates a lot of room for researchers to explore this relationship. However, social policy analysts (MoPR and SI) stated that yes it has been explored by policymakers that is why it is the priority goal this year. He provided significant insight into how Pakistan's national development goals are aligned with sustainable development goals. He identified that Pakistan has transformed the global goals as national development goals through the identification of national priorities.

Moreover, he said that Seven criteria were used, i.e., width, urgency, depth, resource requirement, multiplier, the structural amendment needed, and significance for all provinces. A National SDGs Framework was developed by using these seven criteria that prioritized that SDGs targets as high, medium-high, medium-low, low. These targets are mapped into 17 goals to get the short-run (category – 1), medium-run (category – 2), and long-run (category – 3). The National Economic Council (NEC) of Pakistan, presided over by the Prime Minister of Pakistan approved the National Framework on Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs on the 7th March 2018. To ensure peace in the society through effective institutional reforms and provision of justice, Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions was prioritized in category -1 that calls for the immediate policy interventions. Likewise, Respondent 5 also provided an insight that these goals are part of national goals.

Contrastingly, Respondent 1 was of the view that Pakistan has not realized this relationship. He argued that previously in the case of MDGs, the non-democratic government had different priorities and the government is still struggling. Although goal 16 is placed in priority 1 but lacks implementation. Furthermore, one of the participants is of the view that looking at goal number 16 that is peace, justice, and strong institutions, the peace part of it is less recognized and explored while more focus is in strong institutions. Moreover, it is noteworthy that none of the participants provided any insight on goal 11 that is sustainable cities in relation to peace.

#### 4.2.6 Correlation of SDGs with Security Situation of Pakistan

Most of the participants were of the view that SDGs are correlated with security in Pakistan wither its poverty, hunger, inequality, injustice, or weak institutions. For instance, one of the participants was of the view that unemployment is not economic issues, its social issue that leads to poverty, increased crime rate, and disrupt peace in the country. Similarly, Respondent 5 argued that poverty is the bottom line of inequality. However, when asked particularly about SDG 11(sustainable cities and sustainable communities), none of the participants provided any

clear relation with conflict and peace. For instance one of the participants related it to environmental sustainability but did not have any knowledge regarding social issues connected to it. Moreover, it was linked to urbanization and the development of cities in terms of infrastructure. One of the participants was of the view that historically the focus of development in Pakistan was rural integration and development. Urbanization is comparatively a new phenomenon where cities are viewed as an engine of growth. Pakistan is also struggling to produce knowledge about cities and its significance for national development and higher growth. However, Goal 11 was prioritized in category II that required policy intervention from short to medium term. One of the participants said that Pakistan is struggling to develop cities so the question of sustainable cities is too much to ask for. Likewise, another participant argued that no city is sustainable by giving the example of New York that it produces a lot of pollution and is not managed sustainability. Some of the participants like Respondent 2 said that it is not his expertise and not a priority one for Pakistan. Overall it was observed that participants lacked knowledge about this goal specifically concerning peace and grievance theory, they perceived cities sustainability as environmental suitability. Moreover, one of the respondents focused on parking in the capital city, green belts, green energy, and urban planning. Moreover, the dimensions of this research have been changed by the global pandemic.

#### 4.2.7 COVID19 and SDGs

The global pandemic has influenced the framework of agenda 2030. Respondents shared their view on targets and indicators highlighting that the targets are too ambitious therefore for a developing country like Pakistan it is difficult to achieve goals specifically after a global pandemic. Some of the participants, for instance, Respondent 2 seemed hopeful by mentioning work done so far on the climate change mitigation and education sector. However, one of the participants mentioned that the targets for reduced inequalities are too ambitious and inequalities have been increased in terms of income, moreover crime rate is expected to

increase because of various factors including unemployment leading to poverty and hunger. Moreover, respondents also mentioned that inequalities are rising among developing and developed countries. Moreover, one of the respondents mentioned the increase in polarization on a religious basis. Furthermore, Respondent 1 and Respondent 2 are of the view that the global pandemic changes the dimension of SDGs to a significant extent. For instance, health is a priority goal but not much has been done on this goal. With the current scenario, the loopholes in health departments have surfaced which were not that dominant previously. Moreover, the demands for urgency in improving the health sector have increased tremendously that has caused conflicts in the hospitals.

#### 4.2.8 Synchronization of Academics and Policymakers

Academicians and policymakers are working in isolation. Upon asking about academic contribution and research on the goals understudy, most of the respondents are of the view that there is a huge gap between policymakers and academicians regarding understudy goals. Both are working in isolation. Respondent 5 said that overall research capacity has to be strengthened. It is not that only some goals are not researched like sustainable cities, a lot of are not researched in Pakistan. Moreover, most of the respondents agreed that goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) is the least research in Pakistan because it is of least interest to institutions that funds think tanks.

### **4.3 Correlation of Accomplishment of SDGs and Governance/Institutes**

Various participants responded to questions regarding the accomplishment of SDGs through governance and institutions. According to their perception and experience of multiple years. There were certain commonalities and differences in response to the various question. Below mentioned are some significant findings that would help the reader explore the relationship between governance and peace in the country.

#### 4.3.1 State of Governance and State of Peace

States of governance and state of peace are directly proportional to each other. To explore whether the government sector has to play a significant role in security situations through the lens of sustainable development goals. Participants were asked open-ended questions. The majority of the respondents consider governance an important factor to achieve SDGs and maintain peace. Respondent 1 said stated that state of governance and state of peace are like hand and glove. None of them can be achieved without the absence of others. Similarly, one of the participants was of the view both are strongly related. Moreover, he seemed hopeful and said that Pakistan is moving in the right direction in terms of the social dimension. Furthermore, one of the respondents argued that strong institutions are directly proportional to good governance and hence peace country. Talking about the current government, most of the respondents were of the view that the current democratic government has the political will, although institutions take decades to be developed. Moreover, Respondent 5 was of the view that any reform to strengthen institutions needs political will and the current government has the political commitment. She also mentioned that there has been a lot of reforms for bureaucracy and the technical capacity is also getting better. Altogether she portrayed a positive picture and seems hopeful that the government would be able to achieve the mentioned goals, hence adding to goal 16. Additionally one of the respondents was of the view that the government institutions required massive reforms in terms of providing timely justice, public institutions responsiveness for a public interest, and effective social service delivery. Moreover, he argues that there is a need to have meaningful police reforms in Pakistan because major conflicts arise due to the inefficiency of Thana Culture. Various interest groups used these institutions to legitimize their rent-seeking and gain political control. Likewise, Respondent 7 mentioned that lack of good governance results in exploitation, inefficiencies, corruption, inequalities, and injustice in any country hence disrupts the peace.



#### 4.3.2 Civil Society's Role

One of the respondents particularly focused on civil society. He was of the view that not only the government but civil society has to play a substantial role in the accomplishment of these sustainable development goals. The civil society shall be allowed to facilitate the government by reducing hindrances. For instance, he stated that taxes on the organization shall be reduced so they can participate efficiently. His major focus was on organizations like the Edhi foundation. Moreover, he argued that work needs to be done at the community level.

#### 4.3.3 Government Priorities

Various respondents had different views about current government priorities regarding development. Some of them stated that social development of utmost importance. Some of them named economic development as the key to eradicating chaos in the country, however, some considered environment as an important issue in today's world. Moreover, COVID19 was also mentioned as a defining parameter for government priorities. For instance, Respondent 1 said that pre-COVID19, social, and environment were current government priorities. However, after the COVID19 environment is at the backseat. Moreover, another respondent was of the same opinion, for the current government social dimension is of more importance. One of the participants was of the view that every institution has to do its job. For instance, he said that there are numerous social protection policies but needs governance for implementation. Moreover, he mentioned that the current government worked on debt but no potential outcome because there is no economic growth. He was of the view that government machinery is inefficient, therefore it seems a lost hope for the government to accomplish understudy goals. Respondent 5 argued that all of them are interrelated. Moreover, Respondent 2 argued that economic development is prioritized by the current government. However, a lot of good steps have been taken by the government on the environment and social dimension mentioning the Ehsas program. One of the participants said that Social and economic

dimensions are given due priority because Pakistan can leverage on long term policy framework for environmental dimension because of low carbon emissions compared with other developing countries of the region. Additionally, Respondent 7 also agrees that Social development and economic development have been the priority of the government for a long. However, considering Pakistan to be one of the most susceptible countries to the effects of climate change, the environment is slowly and gradually being given importance in policy planning and resource distributions. Respondent 8 gave significant insight into the progress of Pakistan regarding these SDGs so far. He argued that it is essential for the Pakistani government to learn from the lessons of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to design integrated strategies and policies for all parameters of development. For example, poverty alleviation calls for better policies regarding policies of employment, public health, social protection, and a clean environment. In the same way, to reduce stunting, better policies related to clean environment, adequate nutrition, cleanliness within and outside of the home, and better healthcare are the need of the hour. Following a unified approach, Pakistan has been able to make substantial advancement on numerous fronts inclusive of eradicating poverty, decreasing stunting among children, and growing school enrolment, and encouraging gender equality by improving policies and introducing legislation to empower women. Moreover, he informed that The National Assembly building has been ‘greened’ and is powered by the energy which symbolizes that Pakistan is on the way towards renewable energy sources. Moreover, the public-private partnership has also been mentioned as a major factor in achieving these goals and the accomplishment of peace.

#### 4.3.4 Public-Private Partnership

The public partnership is an important component in achieving SDGs. It was a significant finding that the private sector is considered to play a vital role in the accomplishment of sustainable development goals, all the participants considered the private sector as an important

parameter to attain sustainable development goals. Some of them urged on more public partnerships and others argued that there is already a huge number of partnerships. Respondent 1 provided an insight into the current government's strategy regarding the public-private partnership. He said that the government aims to experiment with different manufacturing methods. For that purpose government has to learn from the private sector and vice versa that will overall benefit both the sectors in accomplishing these goals. Additionally, one of the respondents considered the private sector as an important factor and enlighten about it that various MOUs have been signed by the government. It includes a university engagement program that focuses on areas of research for efficient policymaking. Moreover, sustainable reporting is also a combined effort of both sectors that include companies like jazz, Telenor, Fauji fertilizer. Moreover, the responsible business framework is another initiative that is the extension of cooperate social responsibility. There are several public-private partnerships all over the country except Baluchistan province. Furthermore, Respondent 5 there are several non- governmental organizations working on poverty and hunger. Moreover, she stated that 70% of the health sector is run by the private sector. This is alarming because it questions the government efforts on the health sector. Lastly, some of them focused on reforms in policies regarding private-public partnerships to create trust and a friendly environment to achieve sustainable development goals.

One of the participants was of the view that the private sector can play an important role in meeting the SDGs targets and improving the lives of all citizens including the poorest and most vulnerable in the community. For this, it is necessary to examine how businesses can be more integrated by providing services, goods, employment, and livelihoods in a commercially feasible way to people living at the bottom of the economic pyramid. This should be viewed as good business, because fewer people at the base of the pyramid would increase the size of the market and as a consequence, increase business opportunities. A Technical Consultant was

contracted to ensure a strategic and integrated approach for the engagement of the private sector. The Consultant carries out consultations with companies and business associations in at least 12 metropolitans including in all provincial and regional capitals (Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit) to establish what can be done to promote knowledge exchange and learning on the SDGs and to identify business opportunities relating to the SDGs.

Likewise, Respondent 7 provided insight into a public-private partnership. He stated that some noticeable initiatives by civil society include the establishment of Pakistan Alliance on Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Pakistan Development Alliance on SDGs. These alliances are networks of civil society organizations working collectively on localizing the global goals, monitoring progress, and promoting citizen-centric development, and advocating for the poor. Another instance where NGOs have been actively engaged is through a hub of 50+ NGOs working on Goal 16 along with the Peace and Justice Network, the Ministry of Interior, and UNESCO.

#### **4.4.1 Pakistan's Social Policy**

Social policy is the policy by the government for social services development towards the formation of the welfare state. Regarding the social policy of Pakistan, various respondents have various views. Some of them think there is a need for appropriate social policy while others think that there is a current social policy that needs transformation. However all of them named Ehsas policy as current social policy, it includes a wide range of social policies. However, the main objective of this policy is the alleviation of poverty. Respondent 1 mentioned that the previous three governments have the social policy keeping infrastructure as a priority with aim of mobilizing economic activity. one of the participants said that there are various standby social policies like social protection policies, health policy, education policy. However, Pakistan does not have a broader social policy that is an embedded injustice system.

He also named the Ehsas program as a flagship social policy initiative. Moreover, another participant called it as an umbrella project. Another participant acknowledged that there are social policies for food security, poverty, a fund for stunting, policies for old age people, hygiene policies, and civil society is playing an important role. There are various indicators for that however for goal 10, there is a lack of data, so we cannot identify how much inequality has been reduced. Likewise for goal 16, one of the participants mentioned that no significant work has been done, however, an online portal for fir is an important initiative. However, this step doesn't support the lower middle class in cities and with less or no access to the internet in the far-flung area.

Moreover, one of the participants said that after devolution in 2010, the social sector development is the responsibility of the provinces. However, SDGs Section and SDGs units at federal and provincial levels are using their prioritization frameworks advocating for quality education, reducing inequalities in the provision of health services, provision of clean drinking water, and improved sanitation facilities. Similarly, Respondent 7 mentioned that Pakistan's Vision 2025 document, which is closely aligned with SDGs, outlines the national development priorities. It lists the following priority zones for Pakistan that are economic growth, social protection, decent work, nutrition, health and WASH, agriculture and food security, gender equality, resilience, governance, and education.

Lastly, Respondent 8 said argues that to achieve the ambitious agenda of 2030 for Pakistan, coverage program, the national poverty alleviation program, Sehat Sahulat, will be the foundations of the inclusive social policy that is Ehsaas. This policy will be able to emphasize the priority areas of Pakistan including social protection and human capital development. Moreover, he highlighted the progress by informing about the centralized integrated disease surveillance system and the newly launched universal health sector reform program.

Due to the wake of the global pandemic, it has been observed that apart from understudy goals, most of the participants mentioned healthcare in their responses.

#### 4.4.2 Transformation in Social Policy

Transformative social policy is the need of the hour. Participants urged to have improvements in the social policy of the country. Some of them identified the weaknesses and some of them gave recommendations for transformation. Respondent 7 was of the view that SDG as a transformative agenda needs to be adopted in policy and planning. Resource allocation and distribution, as well as progress assessment, need to be measured through the SDGs lens. With a positive outlook, he stated that once on-track, the same inter-connectedness of SDGs which makes collaborative action necessary, will also bring holistic development as a transformative agenda. Similarly, one of the participants was of the view that an integrated planning approach is needed to accelerate progress in the social sector. The conventional earmarking systems in budgets are responsible for resource constraints in some major sectors such as clean drinking water.

Similarly, Respondent 1 argued that in terms of growth, firstly Pakistan needs to identify the needs of the population. He argued that Pakistan has to reframe policy according to the needs for example the global pandemic has highlighted the weak points in health care which was deeply ignored even being the priority goal. Likewise one of the participants argued that institutional confusion is an important factor in poor social policy. There is a horizontal and vertical coordination gap and it has been increased after the 18th amendment. This issue has to be addressed and made clear that which department is under which organization. Likewise there is clarity at the organizational level.

Furthermore, one of the participants considered the contribution of civil society as an important factor. He was of the view that civil society has a vibrant role to play. The government needs to facilitate civil society to encourage them to participate more in nation-building. Moreover,

Respondent 5 provided insight into policies. He said that the government is trying to align new challenges. She said that current priority is health, education, and jobs. This again shows that most of the participants are focusing on goals which are the agenda on the current government and not on the understudy goals. Lastly, respondent 8 considers the uneven distribution of budget allocation as a major hurdle in achieving SDGs and argued that it would have adverse effects on the progress of these goals. He argued that there is a requirement to channelize resources through partnerships with the international community. He concluded that an integrated national policy supported with partnerships will increase and scale up implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Pakistan.

#### 4.4.3 Structural flaws

To achieve sustainable development goals, social policy transformation is of utmost importance. Respondents mentioned various structural modifications and changes that Pakistan needs to achieve sustainable development goals. A very diverse set of views were found in the current study. However, everyone was of the view that these changes would need decades to reflect in the society. One of the common responses was the strengthening of local government through feedback from the lowest tier of government. For instance, one of the participants was of the view that assessment of needs, program planning, and demand for resources should ideally be generated from the lowest tier of government. In other words, an effective governance system at the local level shall translate demand for development for the sub-national and national governments while also overseeing implementation. Similarly talking about accelerating the rate of progress Shah said that effective local government in all four provinces and AJ&K and GB can accelerate the rate of progress on SDGs. Moreover, the government budgets both federal and provincial should reflect the social, economic, and environmental dimensions as highlighted in the National SDGs Framework.

Moreover, Mr. Gillani gave a detailed insight into what initiatives are taken to keep the local government in the loop. He was of the view that the 2030 Agenda that is transformative and universal, facilitates the integration of global goals into national goals. The MoPD&R planned a Local Government Summit in the capital city, Islamabad, in March 2017. The purpose of the summit was to facilitate the cooperation and coordination between local governments, officeholders, and elected representatives to discuss various aspects of SDGs. This shows that the concerned authorities have recognized the role of local government in achieving SDGs. Similarly, to reach out to far-flung areas, further efforts are also ongoing to guarantee that no one is left behind. For example, several organizations in Gilgit-Baltistan, for instance, are functioning to support local support organizations and community-based organizations by engaging residents from multiple ethnic, linguistic, and economic backgrounds to discuss the global SDG framework. Likewise, Respondent 1 also identified the feedback gap from local government as a drawback in identifying and implementing the policies. He said that the local government shall be made efficient and monitored .moreover mobilization of representatives is also necessary.

Additionally, some of the participants identify poor legislation as a challenge to poor social policy while others see poor implementation as the major hurdle. Respondent 5 was of the view that the biggest challenge right now is institutional reforms which would take decades to reflect. Respondent 1 urged for increasing institutional capacity. Moreover, accountability and transparency are needed to achieve improved social policy legislation and implementation. one of the participant argued that most of the budget is allocated to defense and debt in the current government, so there is very little room left for sustainable development. Lastly, Respondent 2 said that there is work done on the policy reforms, however, target-based reforms are required. He argued that which sector or which local area required what development is essential to monitor to being policy reforms. He seemed hopeful and also said that in wake of



a global pandemic, the statistics show that budget to population ratio allocate for health is greater in Pakistan as compared to the US, it shows the current government realization and commitment to identify the problem and allocate budget accordingly. The findings are discussed in chapter 5.

## Chapter 5: Discussion and Conclusion

This chapter consists of a discussion on the findings of the gathered data. It summarizes the findings of the study, its interpretation and view it in the context of the literature review. Moreover, it discusses findings in relation to the research question. Moreover, it looks at the relations between variables and would discuss alternative results. Each section in relation to each goal, its finding, interpretation in view of existing literature is discussed.

The first section was aligned with the first research question of their study. The accomplishment of sustainable development goals (SDG 1, SDG2, SDG10, SDG 11, and SDG16) would bring peace in Pakistan. It was observed that Goal 16 that is peace justice and strong is considered as the backbone of sustainable development goals and not the other way around. If this goal is achieved then other goals would be achieved. Ronald (2020) supports this argument that goal 16 is related to all goals and an essential precondition for achieving Sustainable Development Goals<sup>58</sup>. The dominant response from eight participants regarding this section was that indeed peace is an overarching goal. It was observed that either it is a precondition to achieve the goals or without it, sustainable peace is not possible. However, besides this, some of the participants argued that peace is not the only condition for achieving peace in the country. Other significant factors are involved in achieving peace in Pakistan. Some significant reasons mentioned were geopolitical insecurity and population explosion. one of the respondents argued that Pakistan would be able to achieve SDG1, SDG2, SDG10, SDG11 by 2030 even if SDG16 is not achieved. Likewise, another participant argued that

---

<sup>58</sup> Kempe Ronald, "Peace, justice and inclusive institutions: overcoming challenges to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16," *Global Change, Peace & Security* 32(1)(2020): 57-77.

population explosion as an important cause of chaos in the country. It is the denominator of all the socio-economic problems Pakistan is faced by Pakistan. She urged that efficient planning and policy reforms in population control are required that would have a positive impact on goals under study. It can be interpreted from this data that there SDG16 is an enabler goal for Pakistan, however, internal and external factors that are causing chaos to need to be addressed including increasing population and geopolitical factors.

Additionally, it has been observed that most of the participants were not able to correlate SDG 11(sustainable cities and communities) to SDG 16(peace, justice, and strong institutions). This study indicates that understudy goals (SDG 1, SDG2, and SDG10) are closely related to SDG16. However, no significant data was observed relating to goal 11 to goal 16. Most of the participants perceived it as an environmental issue and compared the capital of Pakistan Islamabad with New York and argued that no city is sustainable. New York produces a lot more pollution than Pakistan alone. Some of the participants declined to answer related to goal 11 stating lack of expertise regarding goal 11. The data indicates that there is a significant lack of knowledge on goal 11. Likewise, it can be interpreted that as it is not a priority goal for the current government, therefore there is a lack of policies and literature on this goal. The data indicates that higher officials do not recognize the relation between the development of cities and the effect on surrounding slums which are related to unequal distribution of resources and inequality. Grievance theory suggests that the development of cities exclusive of the lower class creates grievance due to unequal distribution of resources that lead to chaos and increased crime rate in the city<sup>59</sup>. Furthermore, talking about the lesser role of policymakers and academics regarding goal 11, most of the participants argued that research depends on the funding source and their interests. Sustainable cities are not the priority area.one of the

---

<sup>59</sup> Jasper Teeffelen, "Exercising Citizenship: Invited and Negotiated Spaces in Grievance Redressal Systems in Hubli-Dharwad," *Environment and Urbanization ASIA* 2(2)(2011): 169–85.

participants argued that the research capacity is overall weak, it is not just confined to one goal. Another participant suggested that current research shall be conducted on a priority goal to have better data collection. This data indicates that research needs to be conducted in Pakistan on the goal which is not prioritized to find out why they are not prioritized, is there any lack of understanding regarding them or are they not addressing major issues in the country or is there any other cause.

Goal 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) is an overarching goal. On the one hand, participants agreed on this statement. On the other hand, one of the participants said that when we look at this goal, it has three components and very ambitious targets. One of the participants argued that in Pakistan, the primary focus is on institutions currently and the peace component of this goal is under the limelight. Likewise, one of the participants argued that for a developing country like Pakistan the target for this goal is too ambitious. The data indicates that the goals need to be realistic. Although they are inclusive of every dimension, however, the targets might be too ambitious to achieve. Moreover, reframing of SDGs is required in the wake of global pandemic.

The global pandemic changed the dimension of this research. The majority of the participants mentioned that COVID19 would have a great impact on sustainable development goals. Like every state, the priorities are changing for Pakistan too. It was observed by the responses that every participant mentioned the loopholes in SDG 3 (improved health), they highlighted that concerned authorities shall bring policy reforms by analyzing the need. A global pandemic has revealed the condition of the health sector. A study indicates that progress of SDGs was slow and due to covid19, it has threatened almost two-third of the targets<sup>60</sup>. The data indicate that

---

<sup>60</sup> Robin Naidoo and Brendan Fisher, "Reset Sustainable Development Goals for a pandemic world COVID-19 is exposing the fragility of the goals adopted by the United Nations — two-thirds are now unlikely to be met," *Nature* (2020).

health is the most affected sector is health therefore the focus of the discussion in interviews is directed towards this sector. Likewise, that puts the environment in the backseat of sustainable development parameters according to responses through this data. However one of the studies shows that COVID19 has created opportunities for other goals, for instance, SDG 13(climate change mitigation). The same study concludes that like COVID19, it made a realization that action is required by everyone together to mitigate climate change. World leaders should make it a mindful struggle to participate in education and awareness of climate change and its adversarial impacts just as they are attending to the COVID-19.

Good governance and strong institutions play a vibrant role in achieving sustainable development goals. Most of the respondents agree with this statement they are like hand and glove, peace cannot be achieved in the absence of good governance. Participants are of the view that they are strongly interrelated, without the political will of the current government and technical capacity of institutions, the accomplishment of sustainable development goal is not possible. (Dhaoui, Iyad, 2019), in his study, he argued that good governance is a crucial component for sustainable development.<sup>61</sup> Various regimes democratic and undemocratic had different priorities in Pakistan over the years. This is one of the reasons for the poor socio-economic condition of the country. However, one of the articles suggest different concept the way to development should not be burdened with governance reform. Likewise, Harvard's Merilee Grindle has put it, "we should be aiming for "good enough" governance, selecting a few imperatives from a long list of possibilities."<sup>62</sup> However, the data indicates that governance is directly proportional to accomplishment of sustainable development goals particularly SDG16. However one of participant considered civil society as significant component to

---

<sup>61</sup> Iyad Dhaoui, "Good governance for sustainable development," MPRA Paper 92544, University Library of Munich, Germany,2019.

<sup>62</sup> Merilee Grindle, "Good Governance: The Inflation of an Idea," (paper, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University,2010).

achieve SDGs besides government. He argued that without civil society's contribution, government cannot achieve sustainable development goal.

Private-Public partnership plays a significant role in development that is the accomplishment of sustainable development goals in the current study. All the participants agreed on the importance of public-private partnerships in the developmental sector. Participants were of the view that both sectors have to learn from each other, moreover, the government needs to eliminate hurdles for the private sector and coordinate with them. Zapatrina (2016) argued that in developing economies public-private partnership is very essential.<sup>63</sup> Without a Public-private partnership, development cannot be achieved. Similarly, another study to analyze the role of public-private partnership in sustainable development suggested that reforms in PPP policies would help to achieve SDGs.<sup>64</sup> Altogether the data and literature indicate the importance of PPP in development sector. Moreover, inclusive social policy is another factor that determine the development of the country.

Social policy is the driver of a country's wellbeing. All the participants agreed on having an appropriate and strong social policy however, there was confusion about what is the social policy of Pakistan. All of them mentioned "Ehsas" as a broader social policy of Pakistan. A diverse set of responses were observed in providing recommendations to transform social policy. A study in china on SDGs and transformative social policy argues that there has been significant progress in the development sector post-WWII, however some issues have enhanced like inequality between states and within a country, similarly intra state conflicts have been increased many folds which has the adverse effects on quality of life. The same

---

<sup>63</sup> Irina Zapatrina, "Sustainable Development Goals for Developing Economies and Public-Private Partnership," *European Procurement & Public Private Partnership Law Review* 11(1) (2016): 39-45.

<sup>64</sup> Svetlana Maslova, "Achieving sustainable development goals through public private partnership: critical review and prospects," *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development* 14 (2020) : 288-312.

study suggests that multifunctional transformative social policy is required in improving the relations which determine the control, access, and production of resources and power, it should be incorporated into a global overarching plan for the SDGs.<sup>65</sup> Transformative social policy is the rights-based policy which suggests that the social policy becomes transformative when it tackle the ground reasons of inequalities and social injustices.<sup>66</sup> This data indicates that one of the causes of poor social policy is institutional confusion. It has to be made clear which department has what responsibility. It was argued by the respondent that it has been increased particularly after the 18th amendment. Another respondent considers poor legislation as the cause of poor social policy. Another respondent argued that there are strong policies, however, implementation is poor which needs political will and technical capacity. Another participant argued that accountability and transparency are required to eliminate corruption. Likewise, another participant argued that poor budget allocation is the reason for the ignorance of the developmental sector. However one of the common responses was strengthening of local government. The majority of the participants agreed that proper monitoring and evaluation of local government is required. Moreover, feedback from the local government is required to identify and evaluate needs. A target-based policy for different areas is required. Finally, it can be concluded from the discussion that Pakistan is in dire need of the inclusive social policy.

---

<sup>65</sup> Ilcheong Yi and Taekyoon Kim, "Post 2015 Development Goals (SDGs) and Transformative Social Policy," *Oughtopia* 30 (2015):307-335.

<sup>66</sup> Gabriele Koehler, "The politics of rights-based, transformative social policy in South and Southeast Asia: The politics of rights-based, transformative social policy," *International Social Security Review* 70(2017):105-126.

## **Conclusion**

Post World War II, various developmental strategies became the talk of the town. In this regard, in 2015, the United Nations presented a set of seventeen goals that aimed at the inclusive and sustainable wellbeing of current and future generations. They are to be accomplished by 2030. These global goals are integrated goals that focus on all dimensions of development including social development, economic development, and environmental development. The agenda of sustainable development goals is to leave no one behind. This agenda calls for the cooperation of government and non-governmental organizations for humanitarian wellbeing. However, states are facing various hurdles in achieving these goals. Like any other developing country, Pakistan has been facing multiple challenges to accomplish sustainable development goals. This study aimed to explore the relationship of SDG 16 with other SDGs (SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG10, SDG11). Moreover, the objective of this study was to explore that the accomplishment of understudy SDGs would bring peace in Pakistan. For that purpose, three factors (governance, institutions, and social policy) were analyzed by a descriptive analysis. These factors were utilized to explore the relationship between peace and SDGs in the case of Pakistan. This research data suggests that not SDGs but peace would help SDGs to be accomplished. The research findings in this research indicate that SDG16 is an enabler and an overarching goal among 17 SDGs. To achieve SDG1, SDG2, SDG10, and SDG11, peace must be a precondition. Another finding of this research suggests that good governance and strong institutions are necessary elements for the attainment of sustainable development goals in the case of Pakistan, however, it cannot be accomplished with civil society's participation. Lastly, this study indicates that transformative social policy is required in Pakistan to solve socio-economic issues and achieve peace. This study has been a significant contribution to bridging the literature gap in Pakistan as there is a lack of literature on the relationship between Sustainable development goals and security situation in Pakistan. Moreover, it has paved a way



for future research by identifying weaknesses in some areas of research such as research on SDG11. Of all the evaluations, this master thesis was able to suggest some recommendations. The first recommendation is to bridge the gap between academics and policymakers to identify the root causes of the problem so that policy is made accordingly. Secondly, feedback based social policy is required to identify the needs of the masses. Thirdly, social policies shall be empowering rather than temporary aid to engage the increasing population.

## Appendix-I

Respondents	Response to Question#1	Response to Question#2	Response to Question#3	Response to Question#4
Respondent 1	Yes, Sustainable development goals and conflict are related, it is reframing of UN human rights charter.	Yes, 10 years discourse on counter terrorism suggests that working on marginalization would improve security situation in Pakistan.	No, we haven't, different governments had different priority. At the time of MDGs, non-democratic government has different priorities.	There is an immense need to solve previous issues .If cyclic poverty, hunger, inequality remains, [Pakistan would not be able to come out of current situation.
Respondent 2	Cannot explain direct relation			
Respondent 3	Every social issue is related to peace. E.g. unemployment is social evil not economic issue. It disrupts peace	There is less work done on social security. There are projects on food security. civil society has to play vibrant role.	Yes people have realized it .But talking about goal 16, peace is less focused as compared to strong institutions.	If social issues are addressed, it would bring peace. Even if peace is not achieved, zero poverty would be achieved.
Respondent 4	Peace is a precondition for achieving SDGs.	Yes it can be minimize if we work on food security,	Yes, it has been realized. Zero Poverty is the	Targets are very ambitious, in last 20 years

		inequalities and poverty. However geographical factors are also involved that depends on other goal 17.	outcome goal while goal 2, 16, 11 are priority goals.	inequalities have been increased between developing and developed states. Probability of achieving SDGs is very low.
Respondent 5	Absence of issues addressing goals 1,2,10 cause more distress in the society.	In Pakistan, bigger threat is not terrorism, it is population It is the denominator of all issues Pakistan is facing.	Yes it has been realized and national goals are aligned with SDGs.	There would be no changes, if we cannot address current issues.
Respondent 6	Pakistan's process of integrating the SDGs into its national policy frameworks began much earlier than the September 2015 summit. After consulting with a wide array of	Linking SDGs with current security situation, the implementation of SDGs hinges on partnerships among the public and private sectors, effective coordination mechanisms within	Pakistan has transformed the global goals as national development goals through identification of National priorities.	Pakistan is struggling to establish political and religious harmony among different segment of society. The polarization of society is getting intense due to various international,

	<p>stakeholders and establishing a coordination mechanism with the federating units, the SDGs were embedded into the country's Vision 2025. This document envisions Pakistan amongst the top twenty-five economies of the world based on a balanced platform for development by building strong social foundations. Pakistan has made progress on several development fronts including reducing poverty and reducing</p>	<p>the federal and provincial governments, engagement of development partners, civil society, and academia, and creation of institutional mechanisms to support the 2030 Agenda. By Adhering two core values of SDGs 'leaving no one behind' and 'furthest behind first', SDGs calls for elimination of all kinds of Inequalities and protecting the vulnerable and marginalized population.</p>		<p>regional and national Imperatives. If SDGs are not implemented effectively, there is a danger of deepening of this Polarization in the society.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

	<p>inequalities, focusing on the malnutrition, increasing access to finance, implementing strict transparency and accountability mechanism, improving gender parity in schools, and reforming policies and legislation to empower women. However, the SDGs offer Pakistan a critical opportunity to leverage this progress to create sustained momentum for inclusive development and shared</p>	<p>Equitable distribution of Resources in Pakistan is the primary focus of SDGs implementation.</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

	<p>prosperity along with preventing conflicts of various kinds. The all-encompassing nature of the 17 Goals offer great room for maneuvering Pakistan's priorities to reach the 'furthest behind first' and capitalizing on its existing human and capital resources.</p>			
Respondent 7	<p>The SDGs are inherently interconnected. They are formed with the philosophy that Solutions to one sector are not confined to that</p>	<p>Yes, they would most certainly. Provision of basic service delivery, and societal harmony Due to improved socio-economic situation leads to peaceful societies. However, there are</p>	<p>It has been explored but not from a SDGs lens, I believe. There is, however, a lot of Room for researchers to explore these complex, yet</p>	<p>Pakistan is a state where different regions are influenced by varying nature of conflicts. Conflict in the country is deep rooted and multifaceted.</p>

	<p>sector only. For example, increase Rates of poverty and hunger inadvertently leads to a rise in crime.</p>	<p>Other macro geo-political reasons as well, which needs to be addressed too.</p>	<p>critical relationships.</p>	<p>However, most of Pakistan's Problems are related to economic disparities and social power imperatives. Therefore, to answer this question, it is important to generate knowledge-based socioeconomic and demographic discourse on conflict, violence and their causes and Impacts in Pakistan.</p>
--	---	--	--------------------------------	---

Respondents	Response to Question#5	Response to Question#5	Response to Question#7
Respondent 1	They go like hand and glove, its government responsibility to deliver to citizens.	Situation was different pre and post covid, Pre covid, economic /social and environment were all important in some aspect. Post covid, environment is now at the back seat.	Yes, current government putting through effort and is hoping to learn from private sector and vice versa.
Respondent 2	Government has significant role to play, although it is always criticized but apart from government civil society also has to play their role.	For current government, economic development is a priority. They have worked on environment and social development too.  Everything has changed under global pandemic, now health, poverty and hunger becomes top priority. Budget also changes due to this situation.	
Respondent 3	Strong institutions is equal to good governance. If the institutional capacity is not strengthened, there would not be any peace.	Every institution have their role to play. In social development, work has been done but there is no appropriate data. Service delivery is very	Yes public private partnership is very important and it is all over the country except Baluchistan.



	However, civil society has to play significant role.	important for Implementation.	
Respondent 4	Both are closely related, current government seems very determined .It means we are heading in the right direction especially in terms of social dimension. Moreover, government developed ministry to reduce fragmentation.	Social development is current government's priority. PM talks about education, nutrition and social security in his speeches. Then comes the environmental development and economic is at the bottom.	Yes, there are several public private partnerships. Many MOUs have been signed with private organizations. Moreover university engaging program is underway to identify areas of research to make policies. Additionally, project of sustainable reporting with private companies is also signed.
Respondent 5	For any reform to happen, we need political commitment that we see in current government. There has been a lot of reforms for bureaucracy and wide range of technical capacity. Although it would decades to develop but there is political will.	All dimensions are interrelated. Therefore, didn't name one as a priority.	There are several public private partnerships to eradicate poverty. Seventy percent of health sector is developed by private sector.

Respondent 6	<p>The governance institutions required massive reforms in terms of providing timely justice, public institutions responsiveness for public interest and effective social service delivery. There is a need to have meaningful police reforms in Pakistan because major conflicts arise due to inefficiency of Thana Culture. Various interest groups used these institutions to Legitimize their rent seeking and gain political control.</p>	<p>As stated earlier, National SDGs Framework prioritize 169 targets as high, medium-high, medium-low and low. Social and economic dimensions are given due priority because Pakistan can leverage on long term policy framework for environmental dimension because of low carbon emissions compared with other developing countries of the region.</p>	<p>The private sector can play an important role in meeting the SDG targets and improving the lives of all citizens including the poorest and most vulnerable in the community. For this, it is necessary to examine how businesses can be more ‘inclusive’ by providing employment, goods, services and livelihoods in a commercially viable manner to people living at the base of the economic pyramid. This should be viewed as good business, because fewer people at the base of the pyramid would increase the size of the market and as a consequence, increase opportunities for business.</p> <p>A</p>
--------------	--	--	--

			<p>Technical Consultant was contracted to ensure a strategic and integrated approach for the Engagement of private sector. The Consultant carryout consultations with companies and business associations in at least 12 metropolitans including in all provincial and regional capitals (Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit) to establish what can be done to promote knowledge exchange and learning on the SDGs and to identify business opportunities relating to the SDGs.</p>
Respondent 7	<p>Absence of good governance results in corruption, inefficiencies, inequalities, injustice</p>	<p>Social and economic development have been the priority of government for long.</p>	<p>Some noticeable initiatives by civil society include the establishment of Pakistan Alliance</p>

	<p>and abuses in any country.</p>	<p>However, considering Pakistan to be one of the most vulnerable countries to the affects of climate change, environment is slowly and gradually being given importance in policy Planning and resource distributions.</p>	<p>On Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the Pakistan Development Alliance on SDGs. These alliances are networks of civil society organizations working collectively on localizing the global goals, monitoring progress and promoting citizen-centric Development and advocating for the poor. Another instance where NGOs have been actively engaged is through a hub of 50+ NGOs working on Goal 16 along with the Peace and Justice Network, the Ministry of Interior and UNESCO.</p>
--	-----------------------------------	---	--

Respondents	Response to Question#8	Response to Question#9	Response to Question#10	Response to Question#11
Respondent 1	<p>Last three governments has infrastructure as a priority. There is not a defined social policy, however, The current government's social policy focus on social issues with aim to mobilize economic activity.</p>	<p>Yes there are many transformations required. In terms of growth, Pakistan need to identify needs and work on knowledge based economy. Moreover, policies shall be reframed according to needs.</p>	<p>A lot of structural changes are needed. For example; strengthen of accountability, transparent monitoring, and improved institutional capacity. Mobilize representation from local government. Filling of feedback loop is very important.</p>	<p>They are all interlinked, they go hand in hand.</p>
Respondent 2	<p>In the wake of global pandemic, the social policy becomes very important. There are various social safety bet programs</p>	<p>There are numerous transformations needed to achieve SDGs. Feedback based identification of needs is required.</p>		

	including Bait ul mal, EOBI, Benazir income support ,they all fall under ehsas program			
Respondent 3	Ehsas program is an umbrella project to eradicate poverty. There are funds to reduce funding. Good hygiene is also given very importance. There is lack of data on reduced inequalities, therefore how much inequality has been reduced cannot be measured. Regarding peace, not much has been done .online FIR portal has been introduced but it	Civil society has been given opportunity. Work needs to be done on community level .Transparent regulation is required.	Immense need of legislation which is poor right now. Policies are good but the implementation is poor.	They are interlinked. Every aspect requires attention.

	<p>does not include lower middle class in cities and people in far flung areas where there is no internet facility.</p> <p>Regarding, zero hunger, food availability has been improved.</p> <p>There is not nay significant policy on sustainable cities.</p>			
Respondent 4	<p>Right now we have standalone social protection policy, health policy, education policy but we do not have a broader policy that is embedded in the justice system.</p> <p>Government has launched Ehsas Policy. It is the</p>	<p>We have to remove institutional confusion. We have vertical and horizontal gap after 18<sup>th</sup> amendment. Anomalies needs to be addressed to addressed which department is under federal or provincial authority. There is</p>	<p>Structures cannot be changed overnight.</p> <p>Government is spending too much on dept and defense so very little budget is left for development .reforms are needed in this regard.</p>	<p>Economic development would be directly affected by accomplishment of SDGs. Then environment and social development is the outcome.</p>

	flagship social policy initiative.	lack of clarity at organization al level.		
Respondent 5	In wake of covid, we need to create jobs.	We are trying to align new challenges .health, education and jobs are priority for current government.	Structures have systems and people that are institutions. Institutions take decades to develop.it is the biggest challenge.	There might not be visible impact in 2-5 years. It would take time.
Respondent 6	After devolution in 2010, the social sector development is the responsibility of the provinces. However, SDGs Section and SDGs units at federal and provincial levels are using their prioritization frameworks advocating for quality education, reducing	An integrated planning approach is needed to accelerate the progress in social sector. The conventional earmarking systems in budgets are responsible for resource constraints in some major sectors such as clean drinking water.	Effective local government in all four provinces and AJ&K and GB can accelerate the rate of progress on SDGs. The government budgets both federal and provincial should clearly reflect the	Pakistan is the country with in human capital that impacted negatively in the development of the country. The focus must be putting more resources for human development.



	inequalities in provision of health services, provision of clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities.		social, economic and environmental dimensions as highlighted in the National SDGs Framework.	
Respondent 7	Pakistan's Vision 2025 document, which is closely aligned with SDGs, lays out the national development priorities. Its ten key outcomes are priority areas for Pakistan – economic growth; decent work; health and WASH; nutrition; agriculture and food security; resilience; education and learning; gender	SDG as a transformative agenda needs to be adopted in policy and planning. Resource allocation and distribution, as well as progress assessment need to be measured through the SDGs lens. Once on-track, the same inter-connectedness of SDGs which makes collaborative action necessary, will also bring holistic	Assessment of needs, program planning and demand for resources should ideally be generated from the lowest tier of government. In other words, an effective governance system at the local level shall translate demand for development for the sub-national and national government	Pakistan is affected by social, economic and environmental dynamics described in Vision 2025 that could affect the country's pursuit of the SDGs. Foremost among these are the accelerating effects of climate change and rising pressure on terrestrial and marine resources; effects from rapid population growth and urbanization; significant internal

	equality and rights; governance; and social protection.	development as a transformative agenda.	while also overseeing implementation.	migration, especially towards urban centers which lack the infrastructure to cope with the influx of new residents; a burgeoning population of youths without adequate education or employment prospects; and variations in the pace and quality of economic growth.
--	---	---	---------------------------------------	--

Respondents	Response to Question#12	Response to Question#13	Response to Question#14	Response to Question#15
Respondent 1	Goal 16 cross cuts all SDGs	Yes, the concerned authorizes has realized and they are playing their role. However the situation of	Policy makers are working in isolation than academia. Innovations comes from academia.	There has been work done on peace but under different words not in context to SDGs.

		developing states is different than the west.		
Respondent 2				
Respondent 3	Goal 16 is an enabler goal. Yes it is priority goal to achieve other SDGs.	No, they have the authority but in case of bureaucracy, its spirit is different than SDGs. So There are implementation issues.	Think tanks listen to bureaucracy ,therefore ,there is no research on goal 11.Both policy makers and academia is working in isolation	There has been a lot of work done on institutions but there are implementation and accountability concerns.
Respondent 4	Yes peace is necessary to achieve SDGs. If there is no peace, there won't be any strong institutions, SDGs would not be accomplished.	Off course yes, right now we have relative peace since 6 years in terms of armed conflicts.as far as the social conflicts are concern, government has to do a lot.	Yes it is less researched because research is conducted on areas of research from where funding is coming. sustainable cities is a new concept ,before this urban planning was popular .No city is sustainable ,Even New York creates	Does not agree, in context of SDG, maybe yes .however, peace is research widely with different words.

			population. Our urban unit is working on city development.	
Respondent 5	Peace is an overarching goal. It is a precondition. If we cannot eradicate poverty. Then how we expect to eradicate inequality and achieve justice.		Overall the research capacity is low. It is not the only goal which is less researched there are many areas with weak research. Overall research capacity is weak ,we need to build that.	There are many SDGs that are feeding into this SDG.
Respondent 6	-	The equitable distribution of resources is done through budgets and national finance commission award. The government is aware through Multidimensional Poverty Index that how many districts	Historically, the focus of development in Pakistan was rural integration and development. The urbanization is comparatively a new phenomenon where cities are viewed as engine of growth.	The case of Pakistan is different from rest of Asia & Pacific region where Goal 16 is in the core goal for the achievement of SDGs.

		are lagging behind in terms of social development.	Pakistan is also struggling to produce knowledge about cities and its significance for national development and higher growth. However, Goal 11 was prioritized in category II that required policy intervention from short to medium term.	
Respondent 7	The equitable distribution of resources is done through budgets and national finance commission award. The government is aware through Multidimensional	Yes, it seems so. However, there are many variables which, over a period of time, cause conflicts to emerge within a country or region.	Our observation and study of urban planning of major cities show that although the plans do not refer to SDG-11 as such, but they do contribute significantly towards major targets	Yes, it may be the least researched Goal due to its complex dynamics, data availability, means of implementation challenges, etc. Goal 16 has the

	<p>Poverty Index that how many districts are lagging behind in terms of social development.</p>		<p>of SDG-11 like basic services delivery, transportation, water and sanitations, education, health, land-use planning and inclusivity.</p>	<p>highest number of targets (10) and the lowest number of means of implementation (2) making the pursuit of peace, justice, and good governance, destined to remain the stuff of idealistic hopes.</p>
--	---	--	---	---

## References:

1. Annan, Kofi. *Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility*, (United Nations, 2004).
2. Jenkins, Roy. Rostow, Walt. Schmidt, Helmut. Chace, James. Berger, Charles. "The Marshall Plan and Its Legacy: 50 Years Later," *Foreign Affairs* (1997): 157–220.
3. Sen, Amartya. *On Ethics and Economics* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1987), 2–3.
4. Costalli, Stefano. Moretti, Luigi. Pischedda, Costantino, "The Economic Costs of Civil War: Synthetic Counterfactual Evidence and the Effects of Ethnic Fractionalization", (Paper No. 184, Households in Conflict Network. Brighton: IDS, 2014).
5. Israel, Sid. "What Is Development?" Sid Israel, 11 Mar. 2018.
6. Dossa, Shiraz. "Slicing up 'Development': Colonialism, Political Theory, Ethics," *Third World Quarterly* 28(5) (2007): 887-99.
7. Shiva, Vandana. *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply* (Cambridge: South End Press, 2000).
8. Illich, Ivan. 'Needs', in Sachs, The Development Dictionary, 94.
9. Mark, William. *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World* (London: Routledge, 2019).
10. Wane, Najoki. "Indigenous Feminist Thought," in *the politics of cultural knowledge*, (Sense publishers, 2011), 7-21.
11. Pearson, Ruth. "Rethinking Gender Matters in Development," in *Poverty and development into the 21st century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).
12. Barkey, Stan. *People First: A Guide to Self-reliance, Participatory Rural Development* (London: Zed Books, 1993).

13. Schumpeter A,Joseph. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (Rio de Janeiro: Zahar Editores, 1984).
14. UNDP,” Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century “in *Human development report 2019*, report (New York, 2019).
15. Borowy,Iris.*Defining sustainable development for our common future: a history of the World Commission on Environment and Development*,report (Brundtland Commission, 2014).
16. Emas,Racheal.”The concept of sustainable development: definition and defining principles”, *Florida International University*, 2015.
17. Kumar, Sanjiv.Kumar,Neeta and Vivekadhish,Saxena.” Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Addressing Unfinished Agenda and Strengthening Sustainable Development and Partnership,” *Indian Journal of Community Medicine* 41(1) (2016): 1–4.
18. Osorio A.R,Leonardo.Lobato O,Manuel and Castillo A.D,Xavier.“Debates on Sustainable Development: Towards a Holistic View of Reality,” *Environ Dev Sustain* 7(2005):501–518.
19. Ike, Masayoshi. Donovan D, Jerome. Topple, Cheree.Masli K, Eryadi. “The process of selecting and prioritizing corporate sustainability issues: Insights for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,” *Journal of Cleaner Production* 236(2017).
20. Sachs, Jeffrey. Traub,Guido Schmidt, Kroll. Christian, Delacre, David and Teksoz,Katerina.*SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017*, report (New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2017).



21. Lange, Amanda, Walter, Salviaa. Filhobc, Leal. Luciana L Brandlia, Juliane S Griebelera," Assessing research trends related to sustainable development Goals: Local and global issues," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 208(2019):841-849.
22. Jeffrey Sachs, Guido Schmidt-Traub, Christian Kroll, David Durand-Delacre, and Katerina Teksoz, *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017*, report ( New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2017).
23. Salvia, Amanda Lange, Walter Leal Filho, Luciana Londero Brandli, and Juliane Sapper Griebeler, "Assessing research trends related to Sustainable Development Goals: local and global issues," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 208, 1 (2019): 841-849.
24. Måns, Nilsson. Chisholm, Elinor. Griggs, David. Chapman, Philippa. McCollum, David. et al. "Mapping interactions between the sustainable development goals: lessons learned and ways forward," *Sustainability Science*. 13 (6) (2018): 1489-1503.
25. Foley, J., Ramankutty, N., Brauman, K. et al. "Solutions for a cultivated planet," *Nature*. 478 (2011): 337-342.
26. Brijesh, Mainali. Luukkanen, Jyrki. Silveira, Semida and Kaivo-oja, Jari. "Evaluating Synergies and Trade-Offs among Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Explorative Analyses of Development Paths in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa," *Sustainability*. 10 (3)(2018): 815.
28. UNDP," Human development report 2006: beyond scarcity: power, poverty and the global water crisis," report (New York, NY: Oxford University Press for UNDP, 2006).
29. Pories, Lesley. "Income-enabling, not consumptive: Association of household socioeconomic conditions with safe water and sanitation," *Aquat Procedia* (2016): 74–86.
30. Blanc L, David. "Towards integration at Last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets", *Sustainable Development* 23 (2015):176–187.

31. Joleen, Timko .Billon L, Philippe. Zerriffi, Hisham. Rosés H, Jordi. Roche, Ian. Gaston, Chris. Sunderland, Terry and Kazak, Rob. "A policy nexus approach to forests and the SDGs: tradeoffs and synergies," *Current opinion in environmental sustainability* 34, 1 (2018): 7-12.
32. Akurajua, Vamsidhar. Pradhan, Prajal. Hasse, Dagmar. Kroppad, Jürgen. Rybskia, Diego." A systematic study of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) interactions," *Earth's Future* 5(2017): 1169–1179.
33. Breuer, Anita. Janetschek, Hannah. Malaria, Daniele." Translating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Interdependencies into Policy Advice," *Sustainability* 11(2019).
34. Kanie Norichika, and Frank Biermann," *Governing through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation* (London, England: MIT Press, 2017).
35. Persson, Asa. Weitz, Nina. Nilsson, Måns." Follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals: alignment vs internalization," *Rev Eur Comp Int Environ Law* 25 (2016): 59-68.
36. Hajer, Maarten. Nilsson, Måns. Raworth , Kate. Bakker, Peter. Berkhout , Frans. Boer D, Yvo. Rockstrom, Johan. Ludwig, Kathrin and Kok, Marcel. "Beyond Cockpit-ism: Four Insights to Enhance the Transformative Potential of the Sustainable Development Goals," *Sustainability* 7, 2(2015): 1651-1660.
37. Biermann, Frank. Kanie, Norichika. Kim E, Rakhyun. "Global governance by goal-setting: The novel approach of the UN Sustainable Development Goals," *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 26(2017): 26– 31.
38. Haider, Jamila. Boonstra J, Wiebren. Peterson D, Garry. Schluter, Maja. "Traps and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas: A Review," *World Development* 10(2018): 311-321.

39. Liu, Qian-Qian, Yu, Man, Wang, Xiao. "Poverty reduction within the framework of SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda," *Advances in Climate Change Research* 6(2015): 67-73.
40. Sumner, Andy. "Where Do the World's Poor Live?" (Paper, Brighton: IDS, 2012).
41. Campagnolo, Lorenza and Davide, Marinella. "Can the Paris deal boost SDGs achievement? An assessment of climate mitigation co-benefits or side-effects on poverty and inequality," *World Development* 122(2019), 96–109.
42. Judith, Schleicher, Schaafsma, Marije and Vira, Bhaskar. "Will the Sustainable Development Goals address the links between poverty and the natural environment?" *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 34(2018): 43-47.
43. Doorgapersad, Shika. "Gender equality for achieving sustainable development goal one (no poverty) in South African municipalities," *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity Studies* 11(2019).
44. Ahmed, Manzoor. "Economic dimensions of sustainable development, the fight against poverty and educational responses," *International Review of Education* 56 (2010): 235-253.
45. Njoku, Julie and Onyegbula, Judith. "Human Capital Development as a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Nigerian Education System," *African Research Review* 11 (2) (2017): 178.
46. Padda, I.H., Ihtsham and Hameed, Abdul. "Estimating multidimensional poverty levels in rural Pakistan: A contribution to sustainable development policies," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 197(2018): 435–442.
47. Pogge, Thomas. "The hunger games," *Food Ethics* 1 (1) (2016): 9–27.
48. Byerlee, Derek and Fanzo, Jessica. "The SDG of zero hunger 75 years on: Turning full circle on agriculture and nutrition," *Global Food Security* 21(2019):52–59.

49. Mead, Margaret. 'Food as a Basis for International Co-Operation.' *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 14(5) (1994):258-264.
50. Blesh, Jennifer. Hoey, Lesli. Jones, Andrew. Friedmann, Harriet. Perfecto, Ivette. "Development pathways toward "zero hunger," *World Development* 118(2019): 1–14.
51. Cernev, Tom and Fenner, Richard. "The importance of achieving foundational Sustainable Development Goals in reducing global risk," *Futures* 115(2020).
52. Raman, Kumar and Pritam, Roy. "War and peace: Is our world serious about achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030?" *Journal of family medicine and primary care*, 7(6) (2018):1153–1156.
53. Botero, Carlos Juan. Pinzon, Angela .Pratt, Christine. "How, When and Why Do Governance, Justice and Rule of Law Indicators Fail Public Policy Decision Making in Practice?" *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*, 8(1) (2016):51–74.
54. UN Women, *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace, Chapter 3, 'Women's Participation and a better Understanding of the Political,'* report ( New York: UN Women, 2015).
55. Hammarberg, Karin. Kirkman, Maggie and Lacey, deSheryl. "Qualitative research methods: when to use them and how to judge them," *Human Reproduction* 31(3)(2016):498–501.
56. Bell, Judith .*Doing your Research Project: a guide for first-time researchers in education and social science* (Buckingham: OUP, 2005), 4.
57. Klentzin, Jacqueline. "The borderland of value: Examining student attitudes towards secondary research," *Reference Services Review* 38 (2010):557-570.

58. Wright, Tiu Len. "Exploring the in-depth interview as a qualitative research technique with American and Japanese firms", *Marketing Intelligence & Planning* 14 (6) (1996): 59-64.
59. Ronald, Kempe .” Peace, justice and inclusive institutions: overcoming challenges to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16,” *Global Change, Peace & Security* 32(1) (2020): 57-77.
60. Teeffelen, Jasper. “Exercising Citizenship: Invited and Negotiated Spaces in Grievance Redressal Systems in Hubli–Dharwad,” *Environment and Urbanization ASIA* 2(2) (2011): 169–85.
61. Naidoo, Robin and Fisher, Brendan. “Reset Sustainable Development Goals for a pandemic world COVID-19 is exposing the fragility of the goals adopted by the United Nations — two-thirds are now unlikely to be met,” *Nature* (2020).
62. Dhaoui, Iyad.”Good governance for sustainable development,” MPRA Paper 92544, University Library of Munich, Germany, 2019.
63. Irina, Merilee “Good Governance: The Inflation of an Idea,” (paper, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2010).
64. Zapatrina, Irina. "Sustainable Development Goals for Developing Economies and Public-Private Partnership," *European Procurement & Public Private Partnership Law Review* 11(1) (2016): 39-45.
65. Maslova, Svetlana. “Achieving sustainable development goals through public private partnership: critical review and prospects,” *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development* 14 (2020): 288-312.
66. Yi, Ilcheong and Kim, Taekyoon. ”Post 2015 Development Goals (SDGs) and Transformative Social Policy,” *Oughtopia* 30 (2015): 307-335.

67. Koehler, Gabriele. “The politics of rights-based, transformative social policy in South and Southeast Asia: The politics of rights-based, transformative social policy,” *International Social Security Review* 70(2017):105-126.